CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Trajectory...tilting toward India: PM Modi

'I have been saying this at various global platforms, and today we are seeing India benefit even amid trade tensions across many countries'

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday credited strategic persistence for the successful finalisation of India's landmark trade deal with the US.

Addressing the NDA MPs at the parliamentary party meeting, he said the "patience and wisdom paid off". While the government had previously faced backlash over difficult tariff negotiations, its steady approach ultimately secured a favorable outcome, the PM said.

He emphasised that the new trade agreement has fostered a thriving economic climate and serves as a testament to the government's calm, consistent, and strategic approach to complex international negotiations.

On the trade deal, he added that it marks a big win for diplomacy and has further created a positive environment.

Heaping praise on the historic trade deal, PM further said the world order is changing in India's favour after the announcement of the deal.

"India has become the centrestage for the world and it is shaping the world order," he said, referring to the India-EU and India-US trade deals.

"The world is tilting towards India. The trade deals have shown that India can showcase its strength despite uncertainty," he added.

Taking to X earlier, Prime Minister Modi wrote: "Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%", thanking Trump. "When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation," said Modi.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL: 7 POINTS

- India will lower its tariffs on US exports to zero
- US will drop the reciprocal tariffs from 25% to 18%
- Trump claimed India will stop buying oil from Russia.
- India will step up oil purchase from the US.
- India may potentially starting buying oil from Venezuela.
- Trump said India has committed to buying $500 billion on several American things, including energy, agriculture, coal, and technology.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL TIMELINE

- FEB 13, 2025 | PM Modi and US President
- Trump set target to more than double bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.
- MAR 4-6, 2025 | Commerce minister Piyush Goyal visits Washington DC; meets USTR Jamieson Greer and US
- APR 2, 2025 | US announces 26% additional import duty on Indian goods (10% baseline + 16%) reciprocal).
- APR 9, 2025 | US suspends the 16% reciprocal tariff for 90 days (till July 9, 2025).
- JUN 26, 2025 | Indiandelegation visits Washington to bridge differences ahead of the July 9 deadline.
- JUL 31, 2025 | US announces 25% duty on Indian goods, effective Aug 7. 2025.
- AUG 6, 2025 | US imposes an additional 25% tariff citing India's Russian oil purchases; total tariff rises to 50% (effective Aug 27).
- OCT 15-17, 2025 | Indian team in Washington; by now six formal rounds of talks completed.
- JAN 31, 2026 | Goyal says India is working to close the deal "quickly".
- FEB 2, 2026 | India-US agree on a deal to cut US reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18% from 25%.

PM Modi 'buckled under pressure, sold out' hard work of farmers: Rahul

NEW DELHI

Commenting on the India-US trade deal, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday raised speculation on why the agreement, which had been stuck for about four months was suddenly finalised.

Addressing reporters in the Parliament House complex, the Congress leader alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has buckled under US pressure and "sold out" the hard work of Indian farmers through the agreement.

"We need to understand why a trade deal stuck for about four months was suddenly finalised last evening," Gandhi said, adding that "there was huge pressure on Prime Minister Modi."

Asked what kind of pressure he was referring to, Gandhi pointed to the case against industrialist Gautam Adani in the US and alleged more revelations will come in the Epstein files.

Speaking to reporters, Gandhi said the issue is not Naravane's statement, "that is a side show", but the main thing is that "our prime minister has been compromised". "The issue is not Naravane's statement, that is a side show, he (Modi) and I both know it. The main thing is that our prime minister has been compromised. Who has done it and how it has been done, the people of India have to think about it," Gandhi said.

He alleged that Prime Minister Modi "has been compromised" and that Indian farmers must understand their hard work, "as well as their blood and sweat" has been "sold out" through the India-US trade deal.v

REDUCED 18% TARIFFS ON INDIA: TRUMP

US President Donald Trump announced reduced reciprocal tariffs on India from 25% to 18%, following a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Trump announced the bilateral trade agreement in a post on Truth Social, ending months of speculation and tussling between the two nations over tariffs, and marking a new beginning in their economic partnership. He said he was cutting tariffs on Indian goods to 18%. In return, India has committed to eliminating its tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US products. "Out of friendship and respect for PM Modi, and as per his request, we agreed to a trade deal between the US and India," Trump said in a social media post. He had previously levied 25% reciprocal tariffs, plus an additional 25% for New Delhi's purchases of Moscow's oil.

NO WORD FROM INDIA ON HALTING RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES: KREMLIN

Moscow: The Kremlin said on Tuesday it had heard no statements from India about halting purchases of Russian oil after US President Donald Trump said New Delhi had agreed to stop such purchases as part of a trade accord with Washington. US President Donald Trump announced a trade deal on Monday with India that slashes US tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent in exchange for India halting Russian oil purchases and lowering trade barriers. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was carefully analysing Trump's remarks on relations with India. Asked directly if India had decided to stop buying Russian oil, Peskov said: "So far, we have not heard any statements from Delhi on this issue."

DALAL STREET ROARS AS INDIA-US DEAL SPARKS RECORD RALLY

MUMBAI: The domestic equity markets opened with a historic rally on Tuesday, surging sharply in early trade, supported by upbeat global cues following the announcement of a key India-US trade deal. Benchmark indices witnessed record gains at the opening bell, reflecting strong investor optimism across sectors. The Nifty 50 index opened at 26,308.05, up by 1,219.65 points or 4.86%, while the BSE Sensex jumped 3,656.74 points or 4.48% to open at 85,323.20. The markets opened on a strong positive note, exploding in positive territory amid improved global risk sentiment after the trade deal announcement.

K'taka moves Assembly resolution to repeal VB-G RAM G Act, restore MGNREGA

BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka on Tuesday moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly urging the Centre to immediately repeal the new rural employment legislation VB-G RAM G Act and reinstate the UPA-era MGNREGA in its original form, amid strong objections from opposition BJP.

The resolution moved by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the 'VB-G RAM G Act, "unilaterally" enacted by the Centre, is "detrimental to the basic ideals of federalism and the right to livelihood of the rural people".

"With a view to protecting the right to life of the rural people of Karnataka, this House urges the central government to immediately repeal the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM-G) Act, which is against the federal principle, is a severe burden on the state exchequer and is against the principle of decentralization, and has taken away the powers and rights of the Gram Panchayats; and to reinstate the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in its original form, which has led to rural asset creation and self-reliance of the poor," the resolution read by the CM said.

Stating that the Assembly reiterates its full commitment to the Panchayati Raj system and the principles of decentralization of power, which are the bedrock of Indian democracy, it said, "This House takes serious view of the repeal of the MGNREGA, which was a Sanjeevini (something that gives life) for the rural poor and an integral part of rural life."

"This House strongly opposes this move of the Centre (of bringing in the VB-G RAM G act repealing MGNREGA)," it added.

Meitei leader Yumnam set to be Manipur CM

IMPHAL

The BJP on Tuesday picked Yumnam Khemchand Singh for the post of chief minister of Manipur, a state that has been under President's rule for nearly a year.

The post has remained vacant since N Biren Singh resigned in February 2025 amid a prolonged phase of ethnic violence in Manipur.

Singh's name as the next CM was announced after he was elected as the Legislature Party Leader of the BJP in the Manipur Assembly.

Manipur has been under the President's rule since February 13, 2025, following months of ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities. The central rule was imposed after the BJP-led government headed by Biren Singh resigned on February 9, 2025.

Who is Yumnam Khemchand Singh?

- **Imphal-born Meitei leader with strong urban base**

Born in Imphal, Singh has deep roots in Manipur's Meitei community. He rose through the party ranks after joining the BJP ahead of the 2017 elections. He represents the Singjamei seat in Imphal West district, winning the seat in both 2017 and 2022. He has a strong support base in what is widely seen as a Meitei-majority area in Imphal.

- **Speaker, key portfolios**

Khemchand Singh served as the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly from 2017 to 2022, a period that saw major political churn in the state. He presided over the Assembly during the BJP's coalition government formation after the 2017 polls, when the party secured 21 seats. After the 2022 election, under the second N Biren Singh ministry, he moved into the Cabinet as a MAHUD minister. He later held the Education portfolio, with his work focusing on urban infra,

LS bedlam: Rahul stopped midspeech, 8 MPs suspended

NEW DELHI

A fresh bout of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi versus Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) broke out in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday over former army chief MM Naravane's unpublished 'memoir', citation of which in the House was the reason for a massive ruckus on Monday as well.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to continue his speech on the President's Address in Lok Sabha on Tuesday following his repeated references to India's troubles with China, triggering a protest that ended in the suspension of eight MPs – seven from Congress and one from CPI(M) – who climbed atop a table and threw papers at the Chair.

They were suspended for the remaining period of the Budget Session ending on April 2 after a resolution moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju was passed by a voice vote.

The unpublished memoir in question concerns an article in Caravan magazine about former army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane's account, which seemed to suggest that the political leadership appeared indecisive during the face-off between India and China in 2020.

Gandhi had tried to cite the memoir during his speech in the Lok Sabha on Monday, during a discussion on President Droupadi Murmu's address. The treasury benches, including defence minister Rajnath Singh and home minister Amit Shah, objected to the citation, citing rule 349 of the parliamentary procedure. Ruckus erupted in the House, leading to two adjournments.

Suspended MPs

- Manickam Tagore, Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Prashant Padole, C Kiran Kumar Reddy and Gurjeet Singh Aujla (Congress)
- Su Venkatesan (CPI(M)

DATA SHARING NORMS

'Quit India if you...': SC raps Meta over privacy policy

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed serious concern over WhatsApp and Meta's data-sharing practices while hearing a batch of appeals arising from the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) order imposing a Rs 213.14 crore penalty on Meta for WhatsApp's 2021 'take it or leave it' privacy policy.

On November 4, 2025, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) upheld the CCI's penalty, but partially allowed data sharing for advertising purposes, reversing a five-year ban imposed by the regulator. Subsequently, on December 15, 2025, a clarification was issued mandating that while advertising-related data sharing may continue, all data sharing, both advertising and non-advertising, must provide users with clear opt-out rights.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, while hearing appeals filed by WhatsApp and Meta, as well as a separate appeal by the CCI challenging one of the NCLAT findings, said, "We will not allow to share a single piece of information. You can't play with the right to privacy in this country".

You can't play with privacy. We will not allow you to share a single digit of our data.

—Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India

Calling the practice a "mockery of constitutionalism", the Supreme Court questioned how consent could be considered valid when users are effectively forced to accept the policy on a "take it or leave it" basis. Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that what had been held against the companies was that the consent obtained was "manufactured consent".

The court even warned the tech-communication giants to comply with the privacy of Indians as guaranteed under to them under our constitution or stop functioning in the country. "If you can't follow our constitution, leave India. We won't allow citizens' privacy to be compromised", the CJI said.

QUICK READ

Kerala youth held at B'luru station with ₹5 lakh ganja haul

BENGALURU

A 22-year-old youth from Kerala was arrested at Yelahanka railway station for carrying ganja worth about ₹5 lakh. The accused, G Jobin, a native of Thiruvananthapuram, was waiting at platform number one with a bag when he was intercepted by a joint team of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the excise department. On searching his bag, officials recovered six bundles of ganja weighing around 12 kg. Jobin attempted to flee during the checking but was caught immediately. Though a Kerala native, he had arrived on a train from Odisha, an RPF officer said.

Government PU students in Karnataka to get free textbooks

BENGALURU

From the next academic year, students of government pre-university colleges in Karnataka will receive textbooks free of cost. Until now, free textbooks were provided only to students from Classes 1 to 10 in government and aided schools. According to an Education Department circular, over 27 lakh textbooks will be printed for PU students. Children studying in LKG and UKG will also benefit, with around 10 lakh books to be printed for them. Additionally, moral science textbooks will be distributed to all students, with over 38 lakh copies planned. However, the circular makes no mention of free notebooks, despite an earlier announcement by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. Sources said the proposal is awaiting finance department approval.

BDA to educate public on illegal layouts

Authority warns buyers to verify approvals as unauthorised sites face demolition risks

BENGALURU

After identifying hundreds of unauthorised layouts across its jurisdiction, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has launched a public awareness drive to educate citizens on lawful construction and planning norms. The initiative comes as part of efforts to curb illegal urban sprawl and prevent unsuspecting buyers from investing in plots that lack statutory approvals.

Officials said the BDA will issue 20 to 30 public interest notices explaining what legally constitutes a layout, the mandatory approvals required before land development, the authorities empowered to grant such permissions, and the jurisdictional limits of civic and planning bodies. The awareness campaign is expected to begin from Budigere and adjoining areas, where illegal conversions of agricultural, green belt and valley lands into residential plots have been rampant.

BDA chairman N A Harris said unauthorised layouts have no legal standing and buyers must exercise due diligence before investing. "Illegal layouts cannot be formed. Buyers must verify approvals from the BDA or other competent authorities. Only after development is completed and permissions are in place

do we release the right to sell. Sites without proper documents should never be purchased, as they are vulnerable to demolition and offer no legal protection," he said.

A survey conducted by BDA officials last year flagged 278 unauthorised settlements and layouts across Bengaluru's East, South and North zones, covering taluks such as Yelahanka, Anekal and Jigani. Data as of January 28 shows that most of these layouts were carved out of agricultural land without statutory approvals. Despite having basic infrastructure like roads, drains and electricity poles, many of these sites fall within green belt or agricultural zones, making them ineligible for A-khata and prone to future eviction drives.

A senior BDA official said such developments disrupt planned urban growth. "These layouts were largely formed without approvals, undermining zoning regulations. With stricter khata norms now in place, such violations are less likely to recur, and buyer interests are better protected than in the past," the official said.

The state government is in the process of framing guidelines under which panchayat and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) bodies may consider limited conversion from B-khata to A-khata through a defined procedure. However, activists have raised concerns that any broad amnesty could legitimise poorly planned and unauthorised layouts, weakening long-term urban planning and civic infrastructure.

According to the BDA, a total of 229 illegal layouts have been identified, including 79 in Bengaluru East, 58 in Bengaluru South, 49 in Yelahanka and 93 in Anekal.

Health dept moots QR codes on medicine packaging

BENGALURU

In a move aimed at improving medicine safety and accessibility, the Karnataka Health Department is planning to propose the introduction of indented QR codes on medicine strips and packaging to the Union government. The initiative is intended to help patients — particularly the visually impaired — access essential drug information through smartphones, while also allowing sellers to verify the authenticity of medicines.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the proposal follows his recent interaction with representatives of a Japanese company in Mysuru and extensive field data gathered from visually impaired users. "Our government is committed to equitable healthcare and innovative solutions. To support independent living for persons with visual disabilities, we are focusing on introducing QR codes on medicine strips that can provide essential drug information through smartphones," Rao said.

The proposal draws from findings of the Initiative for Medication Practices and Accessibility through QR Code Technology for the Visually Impaired Persons (IMPACT-VIP) project, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project collected feedback from nearly 500 visually impaired persons across Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

If the QR code is placed in a predictable and standard location on medicine packaging, it can be easily scanned to access critical details such as expiry date and dosage — information that is often difficult or impossible for a visually impaired person to read from conventional labels.

According to the Minister, the proposed QR codes will have tactile indentations, enabling visually impaired users to locate and scan them easily. "Smartphones can guide visually impaired users on how to scan the code. I personally interacted with a few visually impaired people and found that most of them are proficient smartphone users. Even if they are alone while buying medicines, they will be able to access information such as dosage, composition, manufacturing date and expiry date," Rao said. As the proposal involves changes to medicine packaging norms, it will require standardisation and central approval. "We will be sending a detailed proposal to the Centre to consider implementing this at the national level," the Minister added. Officials said the system could also help curb counterfeit medicines, as sellers and consumers would be able to instantly verify product authenticity through the QR code.

Vidya Spurthi Academy celebrates nubhav-2026, stresses values

BENGALURU

Vidya Spurthi International Academy, located at Lakshmidevi Nagar in Laggere, celebrated its grand school anniversary Anubhav-2026 with an emphasis on values, relationships and holistic development of children.

Inaugurating the programme, BK Ravi expressed concern over the declining value of relationships in the lives of today's children. He observed that excessive use of mobile phones has increasingly turned into an addiction, affecting children's emotional and social growth. Advising parents, he said academic marks alone should not be the sole measure of a child's progress. "Parents must also pay attention to sports, cultural activities, artistic talents and other interests of their children," he said.

Ravi stressed that every child has hidden talents and it is the responsibility of parents to identify, nurture and encourage them. He added that balanced development would help children grow into confident and responsible individuals.

Founder-President of the school, D Umashankar, highlighted the importance of imparting value-based education. He said children must be taught the values of the land, the nation, language, culture and brotherhood from a young age. "Our teachers work with dedication to instil patriotic feelings and moral values in students," he said.

Umashankar also noted that value-based education helps children respect elders, develop discipline and grow into good citizens who contribute positively to society.

The celebration was marked by colourful cultural programmes, with students entertaining the audience through dance performances in a variety of costumes, drawing loud applause from parents and guests.

Former Municipal Corporation member Thimmaraju, CEO O Varun Kumar, Administrative Officer T Ramachandra, Principal Dr S Dilip Kumar, teachers, parents and students were present on the occasion, making the anniversary celebration a memorable and meaningful event.

Ward Delimitation as per Revised Notification

BENGALURU

As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, as a preliminary step to the Special Intensive Revision of the Electoral Rolls in Karnataka, the Additional District Election Officer, Bengaluru North, has informed that the 2025 electoral roll pertaining to the following seven Assembly Constituencies can be compared voter by voter with the 2002 electoral roll for identification purposes:

151 – K.R. Pura, 156 – Mahalakshmi Layout, 157 – Malleshwaram, 158 – Hebbal, 159 – Pulakeshinagar

160 – Sarvagnanagar, 161 – C.V. Raman Nagar, This comparison is being undertaken for the Assembly Constituencies falling under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North,.

In this regard, Additional District Election Officer and Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, has appealed to the voters of Bengaluru North to utilize this process and get their names mapped in the Voter List 2025 (to be identified by the serial number of the 2002 Voter List) and to inform others about this and get more mapping done.

World Cancer Day: SRV Agadi Hospital leads community march

BENGALURU

Marking World Cancer Day 2026, SRV Agadi Hospital, a leading multi-speciality tertiary care hospital in Wilson Garden, organised a Community Awareness March on Tuesday to promote early detection, prevention and timely access to cancer care. The initiative brought together students, healthcare professionals and community members in a strong public show of solidarity with cancer patients and survivors.

The march was flagged off by Dr Niti Raizada, Senior Director, Medical Oncology and Haemato-Oncology; Dr S Krishnamurthy, Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology; Dr Anju Agadi of SRV Agadi Hospital; and Umar Ismail Khan, Chairman, Al-Ameen College of Management Studies. Held ahead of World Cancer Day, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, volunteers, medical staff and local residents.

The march commenced at Al-Ameen Institute of Management Studies on Hosur Road and concluded at SRV Agadi Hospital, Wilson Garden. Participants wore symbolic masks and carried awareness placards, creating a visually striking procession that underscored a key message: while each cancer journey is unique, collective awareness and community support can significantly improve outcomes. The use of visual symbolism helped spark conversations around early signs of cancer, screening and the importance of timely medical intervention.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Abhay Vispute, Founder-Director, SRV Hospitals, emphasised the critical role of early diagnosis. "Cancers detected at an early stage have significantly better outcomes. Yet in India, late presentation remains a major challenge. Healthcare institutions must stand visibly for awareness as much as they stand for treatment," he said. He added that many patients delay seeking care until symptoms become severe, highlighting the need to educate communities about subtle warning signs and available screening options.

Dr Niti Raizada noted that cancer care continues to face gaps that hinder optimal outcomes. "These care gaps act as impediments for doctors and caregivers in achieving the best clinical results. Bridging these gaps requires not just advanced treatment, but sustained awareness and patient empowerment," she said.

Fake SSLC question papers circulated on Instagram

BENGALURU

The Department of School Education has filed a police complaint after fake SSLC preparatory examination question papers were allegedly circulated on Instagram, triggering concern among students and parents. Two Instagram accounts — delta_kannadiga_21 and mr_kannadiga_2_ — are under the scanner for uploading fabricated question papers and attempting to collect money by misleading users.

Krishnaji S Karichannavar, Director (Secondary) of the Department of School Education, lodged a complaint with the Central Cyber Crime police, seeking strict legal action against those responsible. According to the complaint, the department had conducted preparatory examinations for Class 10 students, with the second round beginning on January 27. On the same day, the account delta_kannadiga_21 allegedly uploaded a mathematics question paper, falsely claiming it to be the official SSLC examination paper scheduled for January 28. The account is also accused of posting a fabricated Kannada first language question paper on January 27, even before the exam commenced.

PARAMESHWARA HITS BACK

'Hate speech bill sent to Prez, bid to dump it in cold storage'

BENGALURU

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday alleged that Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot's decision to refer the Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill to President Droupadi Murmu was a deliberate attempt to consign it to "cold storage" and prevent it from becoming law.

The Bill, which was passed by both Houses of the legislature during the winter session in Belagavi, was sent to the Governor in December for assent. Instead of clearing it, Gehlot forwarded it to the President, raising 28 queries on various provisions, Parameshwara said.

Addressing media persons, the Home Minister said the government would respond if the Bill is returned with the President's observations. "If the President sends it back to us with her remarks, we will examine them, make the necessary clarifications or changes, and send it again," he said.

Defending the legislation, Parameshwara said the Bill was introduced after careful consideration and in response to repeated instances of hate speech. "We believe in freedom of speech, but that does not mean anyone can say anything without responsibility. We have to consider how such speech impacts society. That is why this Bill was brought," he said.

Taking a swipe at the BJP, Parameshwara questioned the opposition's criticism of the Bill. "If you still say this law is not proper, then what are your motives? Should anyone be allowed to abuse anyone? Should we permit disturbances in society in the name of free speech?" he asked.

The Home Minister alleged that the Governor did not want the Bill to become law. "In my opinion, the Governor has intentionally referred it to the President so that it does not come into effect. He wants it to be shelved forever," Parameshwara charged.

When asked about similar hate speech-related legislative developments in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Parameshwara said the situation would become clearer in the coming days. "Let us see what happens. I think things will improve," he added.

The referral of the Bill has once again highlighted tensions between the elected government and the Raj Bhavan over contentious legislation in the state.

High Court bins order sending defamation complaint to police

BENGALURU

The High Court has quashed a trial court order that referred a defamation complaint against Prof Niranjana, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore North University, to the police for investigation, holding that the procedure adopted was legally flawed. The court also set aside the subsequent registration of a criminal case based on that order.

The complaint was filed by R Manjunatha, a part-time guest lecturer in the university's journalism department. Acting on the complaint, a special court had referred the matter to the Gulpete police on June 4, 2025, for investigation. Two days later, a case was registered against Prof Niranjana for offences under Sections 3(1)(q) and 3(1)(u) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and Section 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Challenging the proceedings, Prof Niranjana contended that none of the allegations made out the offences invoked against him.

QUICK READ

Property dispute between brothers ends tragically

DAVANAGERE

A property dispute turned deadly in Mayakonda, Davangere taluk, when a fight between two elderly brothers ended in murder. The deceased, 65-year-old Nilappa, was allegedly attacked by his elder brother Chandrappa, 68, with a machete after a verbal argument in an areca nut orchard on Monday. Nilappa sustained severe injuries and died on the spot due to excessive bleeding. Mayakonda police quickly reached the scene, inspected the area, and registered a case. Chandrappa has been arrested in connection with the murder. Authorities are investigating the incident further to determine the exact sequence of events leading to this tragic outcome.

Ola bikes seized for footpath encroachment

DHARWAD

Dharwad traffic police seized Ola electric bikes parked illegally on a footpath near Jubilee Circle on Tuesday. The bikes belonged to a nearby Ola showroom, where vehicles under repair were kept on public space. Despite repeated warnings, the showroom failed to clear the footpath, causing inconvenience to pedestrians. Acting on complaints, Traffic Police Station Inspector Shri Niwas Samiti led the operation. Around nineteen bikes were seized and transported using a Tata Ace vehicle. Officials said strict action will continue against such violations. Citizens welcomed the move and urged authorities to protect footpaths and ensure safer movement for pedestrians in areas.

Record railway grant promises big boost for Karnataka

Karnataka's Rs 52,950 crore railway projects include new lines, track doubling, station upgrades, and 61 stations improved under Amrit Scheme

HUBBALLI

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said South Western Railway has received a grant of Rs 7,748 crore in the latest Union Budget, calling it nearly nine times higher than the average yearly support given between 2009 and 2014.

He said Karnataka earlier received around Rs 835 crore per year, but steady growth in funding over the past decade has allowed faster development of tracks, stations, and safety systems. Officials believe the higher allocation will help modernize rail travel and improve connections within the state and beyond. Large projects worth about Rs 52,950 crore are now in progress across Karnataka. These include new railway lines, doubling of tracks, station redevelopment, and safety upgrades. Under the Amrit Station Scheme, 61 stations are being upgraded with better waiting halls, lifts, lighting, and passenger facilities. Work has already finished at several stations, while others are ready to open soon.

Premium train services have also expanded. Karnataka now has 12 pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains and three pairs of Amrit Bharat Express trains, offering faster and more comfortable journeys. Railway expansion since 2014 includes about 1,750 kilometers of new track and 97 percent electrification of the network. Hundreds of flyovers and underpasses have also been built to improve safety.The railway safety system 'Kavach' is being installed in phases to prevent accidents. Goa, which falls under South Western Railway, has also received fresh funds for station upgrades, new lines, and better services, officials said. Leaders said the continued investment is expected to create jobs, support local industries, reduce travel time, and give passengers safer, cleaner, and more reliable railway services statewide.

6 arrested in Davangere police assault case

DAVANGERE

Six people, including Hussain and Hamza, have been arrested in connection with the assault on police personnel during a scuffle in Davangere city. The incident occurred after a fight broke out between two groups over a cricket issue near the Chigateri District Hospital. Police intervened to control the riot, but some personnel were attacked while trying to restore order.

SP Uma Prashant confirmed that a total of six arrests have been made so far out of ten accused. She stated that investigations are ongoing, and the remaining four absconding individuals will be apprehended. Police said five separate cases have been registered at Baradana and Azad Nagar police stations in connection with the incident. Officers attacked during the arrests included female CPI Gayatri, PC Kenchappa, and Harish.

Supporters of Congress leader Ayub Pailwan claimed the incident was politically motivated. Zubair, a supporter, said the police overreacted while attempting to arrest Ayub's associates and that their youth were not responsible for the violence. Another friend, Dadapir, alleged unseen forces were trying to target Ayub politically ahead of the Davangere South by-election.

According to police, Hasan, son of Ayub Pailwan, has been arrested for assault, while the main accused Hussain and Hamza were absconding before their capture.

The IFTU-led rally marched through city circles, held a public meeting, and submitted a petition to state ministers

Construction workers rally seeking scholarships, demand probe

KOPPAL

Hundreds of construction workers took out a large protest march in Koppal on Tuesday, demanding the immediate release of pending scholarships for workers' children and a judicial investigation into alleged irregularities in welfare tenders.

The rally was led by the Indian Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) District Council. Protesters marched from near Kavyananda Park in Ishwara Gudi area through major city circles before gathering for a public meeting. They later submitted a petition addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Labour Minister Santosh Lad through District Labour Officer Sudha C.H. Garaga.

In their petition, workers accused the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board of misusing cess funds meant for labour welfare.

They alleged irregularities in the supply of work kits, school kits, laptops, health check-ups, and skill training programs, and demanded a judicial inquiry.

Protesters also urged the government to release long-pending scholarships as directed earlier by courts. They demanded that health check-ups be conducted only through the Health Department, not private agencies.

Other key demands included raising the monthly pension to Rs 6,000, removing age limits for delayed pension applications, and granting at least Rs 5 lakh for house construction to eligible workers.

They called for cancellation of fake labour cards and easier access to welfare schemes for genuine workers facing technical issues.

Judge urges drivers to put safety first

KOPPAL

Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Mahantesh S. Dargada urged drivers to make road safety their top priority while speaking at the closing ceremony of National Road Safety Month in Koppal on Tuesday.

He said many accidents happen because people ignore speed limits and basic traffic rules. Drivers must understand the limits of their vehicles and control speed at all times. Wearing helmets on two-wheelers and seat belts in cars is not optional but essential for saving lives, he added.

Justice Dargada also warned against using mobile phones while driving and said even a few seconds of distraction can lead to serious accidents. He reminded parents that children under 18 must not be allowed to drive. Vehicle owners should also transfer ownership documents immediately after selling a vehicle and regularly check fitness and pollution certificates.

District Health Officer Dr. Ravindranath M.H. said drivers should plan their trips better instead of rushing. Leaving home a little early can prevent overspeeding and reduce stress on the road. He stressed the need to avoid drunk driving and careless parking. Regional Transport Officer Prabhuswamy Hiremath said Road Safety Month is observed every year to spread awareness and reduce accidents. He noted that safe driving, proper documents, and vehicle maintenance are key responsibilities of every road user. After the program, helmets were distributed to two-wheeler riders as part of the safety campaign, with support from local vehicle dealers and transport associations.

Village president assault case sparks public outrage

BELAGAVI

Belagavi witnessed public anger after a controversial police action involving the Shindo village panchayat president in Savadatti taluk. According to local residents, Panchayat President Durgappa Topoji allegedly assaulted a man who had earlier raised a complaint about village issues. Instead of arresting the president, Savadatti police reportedly arrested the injured complainant, triggering widespread outrage.

The victim, identified as Hanumanth Karikatti, had approached authorities seeking action over local problems. Family members alleged that after the complaint, Hanumanth was attacked and later taken into custody without an arrest warrant. His wife accused the police of using force and ignoring his injuries, claims that police officials have denied.

Residents allege political influence behind the incident and claim the ruling Congress government is shielding the village head, who is said to be close to influential leaders. The police, however, stated that action was taken based on statements and counter-complaints filed in the case.

Public Outrage Over Arrest After Panchayat Assault Claim

Belagavi saw rising public anger following a controversial police action involving the Shindo village panchayat president in Savadatti taluk. Residents allege that Panchayat President Durgappa Topoji assaulted Hanumanth Karikatti, a villager who had earlier complained about local issues. However, instead of arresting the accused, Savadatti police reportedly detained Hanumanth, sparking protests.

Angered by the arrest, Hanumanth's family and supporters approached the Belagavi District Superintendent of Police, K. Ramarajan, seeking justice and a fair inquiry. They demanded action against the panchayat president and impartial treatment for the victim.

The incident has sparked debate over misuse of power at the local level and raised questions about police neutrality. Citizens demand swift intervention from authorities.

Belagavi DM orders probe into land encroachment

BELAGAVI

Following a media report, Belagavi District Magistrate Mohammad Roshan has ordered an immediate investigation into a case of government land encroachment in Kallur village, Ramadurga taluka. The issue came to light after a farmer, Iravva Ka Dappa Chavannavara, raised concerns about a house being built on the only government road leading to her farmland.

An ADLR survey conducted in Kuritukallur village confirmed that the disputed land belongs to the government. Despite this, the local Tehsildar, Prakash Holeppagola, had reportedly taken no action to remove the encroachment. The farmer publicly highlighted this negligence, prompting the District Magistrate to step in.

Officials noted that the incident reflects a growing trend of unauthorized construction on government property, often done without fear of legal action. Citizens have expressed frustration over local authorities allegedly ignoring such violations, causing suspicion and mistrust among villagers.

District Magistrate Roshan has emphasized that Assistant Commissioners and other officials must take the matter seriously and ensure justice for affected farmers. Authorities are expected to carry out a detailed inquiry into the encroachment and take necessary steps to protect government land while preventing similar cases in the future.

The investigation aims to restore public confidence and reinforce the importance of safeguarding government property.

Twelve convicted in shocking Vantamuri assault case

BELAGAVI

A sessions court in Belagavi has found 12 people guilty in the widely condemned New Vantamuri case involving the stripping and assault of a woman. The court said the punishment will be announced on Wednesday.

The incident took place on December 11, 2023, in New Vantamuri village of Belagavi taluk. According to the investigation, tensions rose after a young man left home with a woman he was in a relationship with. In anger, members of the woman's family allegedly targeted the young man's mother. She was stripped, tied to an electric pole, and assaulted in public. The accused also reportedly damaged the family's house. The incident drew outrage across the state and country.

A case was registered at Kakati police station, and police later filed a charge sheet against 13 people, including one juvenile. After a detailed trial, the 10th Additional District and Sessions Court judge H.S. Manjunath pronounced 12 of them guilty. Proceedings against the juvenile are being handled separately under the law.

The convicted include six men and six women. The court has reserved its order on the length of the sentence, which will be declared soon. The case had earlier attracted visits from National and State Women's Commission members and several fact-finding teams. It also sparked criticism when the accused, after getting bail earlier, were reportedly welcomed publicly by some supporters. Legal observers say the verdict is an important step toward justice and sends a strong message against violence and humiliation of women. Activists hope the sentencing will reflect the seriousness of the crime.

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION DRIVE

Engineers urged to solve real world problems

BELAGAVI

Rear Admiral Vikram Menon, Flag Officer Commanding the Karnataka Naval Base, called on young engineers to use technology to solve human problems while speaking at the 25th annual convocation of Visvesvaraya Technological University.

Addressing students who received their degrees, he said engineers must help build a strong, safe, and sustainable nation. He stressed that new technologies should tackle issues like climate change, healthcare, and national security.

Menon praised VTU for adding subjects such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced communication, and cybersecurity into its courses. He welcomed plans for a Centre of Excellence in aerospace and defence, and proposed postgraduate programs in defence technology. He said the Navy supports closer ties with VTU in education, research, and innovation.

Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar announced that nearly 2,000 vacant teaching and non-teaching posts in the state's higher education department will be filled soon.

He said this will improve staff strength in engineering colleges, polytechnics, and universities.

Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot urged graduates to use knowledge, hard work, and a sense of duty to serve society.

A total of 8,702 students received degrees, while 25 won gold medals and 96 secured ranks. University officials said VTU has strong industry links, thousands of internships, and growing placement opportunities, helping students prepare for real-world careers and national development.

Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar said the university is working with thousands of industries and will host an open day to showcase student projects. He added that the goal is all-round growth, practical skills, and research that benefits both society and the nation inclusively forward.

QUICK READ

Navodaya Entrance

Navodaya entrance exam scheduled Feb-7

KOPPALA

The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya entrance exam for classes 9 and 11 will be conducted on February 7 for the 2026-27 academic year. Class 9 students will appear at P.M. Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kuknoor, while class 11 candidates will write the exam at S.F.S. High School and Vidyananda Gurukula, Kuknoor. Students with submitted online applications are advised to download their hall tickets and report to their designated centers on time. The school principal emphasized the importance of following instructions and arriving prepared. Authorities are taking steps to ensure smooth conduct and a fair examination process across all centers.

Drunken stunt sparks panic at village tower

BAGALKOT

Panic spread in Alaguru village of Jamakhandi taluk when a man climbed a mobile tower. The man, identified as Arjun Nautikar, allegedly performed the risky act under alcohol influence. He climbed the tower around 6:30 pm and stayed atop until 7 pm. Witnesses said he waved, took photos, and shouted, frightening gathered villagers. Residents feared for his life and alerted others. They later convinced him by phone to come down safely. No injuries were reported. A video went viral online, raising concerns about public safety and responsible behavior within Bagalkot district limits officials said.

Miraculous Escape: No injuries in trailer crash

BAGALKOT

Road traffic was disrupted for some time on Tuesday after sugarcane loaded trailers overturned near Muchakhandi Cross in Bagalkot. Reports said the trailers lost control when an engine hook snapped. One trailer overturned on the road, while another crashed into an empty house nearby. Luckily, no one was injured in the incident. Sugarcane spilled across the road, causing congestion and trouble for commuters. Traffic police reached the spot quickly, cleared the sugarcane, and restored vehicle movement. Details about the driver and vehicle were not immediately available from officials. An inquiry has begun to prevent similar accidents locally.

Community demands apology over Minister's hurtful remark

Hadapada demanded the minister publicly admit his mistake and apologize in the Assembly, showing leaders take responsibility for words

GADAG

Members of the Savita community in Gadag district have stepped up protests after Labor Minister Santosh Lad allegedly used offensive words referring to their caste. Community leaders say the remark has deeply hurt their dignity and cannot be ignored. Krishna H. Hadapada, District President of Savita Samaj, strongly criticized the minister's behavior. He said the issue is not about one person but about respect for an entire community. According to him, such words create pain, anger, and division in society. Hadapada demanded that the minister publicly admit his mistake and offer an apology during the upcoming Assembly session.

"An open apology in the House will show that leaders are responsible for their words," he said.

The community has also called for a new strict law to prevent caste-based verbal abuse. Leaders want the government to ban the use of insulting caste names and take legal action against those who use them. They have asked that such cases be treated as serious offenses, with non-bailable charges and strong punishment. Savita Samaj leaders warned that if the minister fails to apologize and the government does not promise legal protection, protests will be held across the state. Petitions are also being prepared to submit to the Chief Minister. Hadapada said the struggle will continue peacefully but firmly until the honor and rights of the community are protected. He added that the movement is not against any individual but against disrespectful language in public life. Community members, including youth and elders, have joined meetings to spread awareness about equality, dignity, and the need for responsible speech from elected representatives today together.

Ancient needle ritual draws crowds in Majali

BANTWAL

Two social and political workers from Dakshina Kannada district have been appointed to key posts in the Rajiv Gandhi Jyoti Yatra Committee, an organization that conducts awareness programs about former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his ideas among youth and the public.

Hanif Baggumule, a resident of Baggumule near Alakemajalu, has been named national general secretary of the committee. Siddique Surya, a young entrepreneur and community organizer from Bantwal taluk, has been appointed state vice-president, according to an official order issued by the committee leadership.

The Rajiv Gandhi Jyoti Yatra is held every year in different parts of the country, including Karnataka. The yatra aims to inform students, young people, and citizens about Rajiv Gandhi's life, vision, and contributions, as well as the history and values of the Congress party.

The appointments were made by National President R. Doraivel on the recommendation of local leaders, including Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai and KPCC coordinator Kavu Hemanath Shetty. Supporters said both leaders have long records of public service through education, charity work, youth programs, and community health camps.

Hanif Baggumule has earlier served in several Congress-related roles at the district and block levels, along with positions in school development committees and social trusts. Siddique Surya is also known for his involvement in charitable groups and youth organizations, where he has helped organize medical camps and welfare activities.

Leaders of the committee said the new office-bearers will help strengthen outreach activities in Karnataka and other states by encouraging youth participation, spreading messages of unity, and promoting social service initiatives linked to the yatra's goals in the coming months ahead.

Amid regional imbalance concerns, Union Minister Kumaraswamy will facilitate activists' meeting with the Prime Minister, granted a ten-minute appointment

North, Mysore state activists to meet PM

BAGALKOT

In a significant political development, activists demanding separate states for North Karnataka and Mysore are scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on February 20. Leaders of the Uttara Karnataka Struggle Committee and the Separate Mysore State Formation Demand Committee have already left for the capital to press their demands.

The move comes amid growing concerns over regional imbalance and calls for equitable development across Karnataka. Nagesh Golashetty, Secretary of the Separate Uttara Karnataka Struggle Committee, said that Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has agreed to facilitate the meeting and act as a bridge between the activists and the Centre. The delegation has been allotted a ten-minute appointment with the Prime Minister.

The meeting will be led by Marimallayya, State President of the Separate Mysore State Formation Demand Forum. Activist Prakash Antaragonda emphasized that the creation of a separate North Karnataka state is essential to address long-standing developmental disparities. The delegation plans to submit a detailed proposal, including a map covering 15 districts, along with a comprehensive report to the Prime Minister.

The renewed demand has again brought the North Karnataka–South Karnataka divide into public focus. Activists are hopeful that the Centre will seriously consider their proposal and take steps to ensure balanced development across all regions of Karnataka.

K'taka extends deadline for athlete incentives

GADAG

The Karnataka government has extended the deadline for athletes to apply for incentive funds under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Sub-schemes for 2025-26. Eligible athletes who won medals in official international, national, and state-level events during 2024 now have time until February 10 to submit applications online at Seva Sindhu.

Only athletes belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes from Karnataka are eligible. Applicants must provide caste certificates, Aadhaar card, ration card, R.D. number, income certificate, and a bank passbook copy showing the account name, number, and IFSC code. Incentives are available only for government-recognized sports events, and athletes representing other states or organizations like Railways, Airlines, or Services are not eligible.

The scheme applies to athletes studying from the sixth standard and those serving in government or semi-government departments. Only medals won in official championships conducted by international bodies or events recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, such as Olympic, Asian, or Commonwealth Games, qualify.

Even if an athlete wins multiple medals in a year, only one incentive will be awarded to the best performance.

The Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports emphasized that the funds will cover achievements during the calendar year 2024 only. Interested athletes are urged to apply before the new deadline to benefit from this support.

LAKKUNDI PHC LAUNCHES LEPROSY AWARENESS DRIVE

GADAG

The Lakkundi Primary Health Center has launched a two-week "Leprosy Awareness Campaign" under the National Leprosy Eradication Program, running from January 30 to February 13. Health officials stressed that leprosy, caused by Mycobacterium leprae, is completely curable with multi-drug therapy (MDT), which is available free of cost at all primary health centers and leprosy hospitals.

A poster marking the campaign was released at the health center on Martyrs' Day. Letters were also sent to Gram Panchayats, schools, and the public, urging everyone to take a pledge to treat leprosy patients with respect, maintain their dignity, and eliminate discrimination. Dr. Sharmila, the Medical Officer, said the campaign aims to reach villages under the center's jurisdiction and provide awareness about leprosy treatment.

District Communicable Disease Control Officer Annapurna Shettar released pamphlets and posters highlighting leprosy eradication and the Touch Leprosy Awareness Campaign. Health workers, including Senior Primary Health Protection Officers Shantha Nookapur, Senior Health Inspectors Vai N Kademani and S.B. Gada, Community Health Officers Lakshmi Bhajantri, Primary Health Protection Officers Jayashree Dabali and Gangamma Kumbara, Nursing Officers Areepa Kirategeri, Gayatri Badigeri, Manjula Ari, and ASHA workers attended the program.

Officials emphasized that leprosy patients must be treated with dignity, and all efforts will be made to ensure the disease is eradicated in the region through education, awareness, and timely treatment.

Koppal advises farmers on mango disease control

KOPPAL

Mango flowers are now in full bloom across the orchards of Kushtagi taluk, prompting local horticulture officials to guide farmers on controlling pests and diseases. Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (G.P.) Shivayogi shared advice on managing issues during the flowering and fruit-setting stages to help farmers protect their crops.

Common problems at these stages include leafhopper, flower budworm, flower wilt disease, leaf spot disease, powdery mildew, and fruit disease caused by leafhoppers. Officials recommended specific sprays, including combinations of Lambdacyhalothrin, Carbendazim, Mancozeb, Indoxacarb, Deltamethrin, Tebuconazole, Trifloxystrobin, and Tolfenpyrad. These treatments, when applied correctly, also help control oat borer, oozer worm, forest disease, and other leaf spot problems during flowering and fruit development.

BCM fee refund application deadline extended again

KOPPAL : The Backward Classes Welfare Department has extended the deadline for students to apply online for the 2025-26 fee refund program until February 15. The extension comes after requests from parents, students, and educational institutions. Eligible students from Backward Classes studying post-matric courses, as well as Category-1 nomadic students, can benefit from the program. The refund covers a wide range of courses including B.Arch, B.Tech, M.Tech, MBBS, MD, MS, M.Sc, MBA, BDS, BPT, MPT, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Nursing, Paramedical courses, diplomas, and many others. Students must submit their applications online at https://ssp.postmatric.karnataka.gov.in. Detailed information on eligibility, required documents, and government orders is available at https://bcwd.karnataka.gov.in. For queries, students can contact the departmental helpline at 8050770004 or email bcwdhelpline@gmail.com. State Scholarship Scheme assistance is also available via 1902 or postmatrichelp@karnataka.gov.in.

MICRO ENTERPRISE MATTERS

Gadag hosts one-day MSME awareness workshop

GADAG

A one-day workshop on "Know Your MSME" was successfully conducted at Shivaratna Palace, Narasapura Road, Betageri, Gadag. The event was organized under the Raising and Acceleration MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, supported by the World Bank and implemented by the Government of India. The District Industries Centre, Gadag, and Karnataka State Marketing Communication & Advertising Ltd., Bengaluru, collaborated with bank officers and district and taluk-level MSME officials for this initiative.

The workshop was attended by Joint Director of the District Industries Centre Prashanth P. Barigida, Deputy Director of the Rural and Small Enterprises Department Ajith Nayak, and several bank officers and district/taluk-level officers. The focus was on improving understanding of MSME processes, benefits, and banking support available for micro, small, and medium enterprises.

S.S. Murthy from Bengaluru served as the resource person and delivered a detailed lecture using a PowerPoint presentation. Participants actively engaged with the session, gaining practical insights on MSME registration, schemes, and financial procedures.

Officials said the workshop aimed to strengthen coordination between banks and MSME units, improve awareness of government schemes, and accelerate MSME growth in the district. The event was declared a success, with all participants appreciating the informative session and expressing interest in more such programs in the future.

QUICK READ

Kannada Authority Chairman to tour Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Dr. Purushottam Bilimale, Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority, will tour Chitradurga district on February 4 to review ongoing Kannada projects. The day will begin with a "Kannada Project Progress Review Meeting" at the District Commissioner's Office at 11 am, followed by a press conference at 1:30 pm. Later, Dr. Bilimale will attend another review meeting at Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute in Rangavavanahalli, Gudda, at 3 pm. After completing the district schedule, he will travel to Haveri by 5 pm. The Chairman's office said the tour aims to strengthen project implementation and support local Kannada initiatives.

Chitradurga Medical College warns against middlemen

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga Medical College and Research Institute has issued a warning regarding fraudulent middlemen exploiting nurse recruitment. A notification issued on December 18, 2025, invited applications for contract-based nursing positions. However, officials reported that some individuals are falsely promising jobs in exchange for money. Dr. B.Y. Yuvarajraj, Director, emphasized that recruitment will be conducted transparently and officially by the institution. The public is advised not to pay any money to intermediaries. Anyone approached with such offers should immediately report the person's address and mobile number to the college authorities to prevent scams and protect aspiring candidates.

District to celebrate Kayak Sharan and Sant Sevalal

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga district will celebrate Kayak Sharanar Jayanti on February 10 and Sant Sevalal Jayanti on February 15 to honor the ideals of saints and spiritual leaders. Assistant Director Gurunath B.M. said the programs aim to spread their teachings, promote equality, and remove superstitions. Floral tributes will be paid, and lectures will highlight contributions of Kayak Sharans and Saint Sevalal, the Kulaguru of the Banjara community. Celebrations will involve local representatives, Banjara community cooperation, and district officials. Sardar Sevalal Swamiji emphasized uniting communities and promoting social harmony. The events were planned in a preparatory meeting at the District Collector's Office.

CM's Infrastructure Development Scheme: Work to start by Feb end

₹ 275 cr released to the district; 178 works approved, 126 proposals worth ₹ 65 crore await sanction

CHITRADURGA

District Magistrate T. Venkatesh has instructed officials to ensure Bhoomi Puja is performed by the respective MLAs for all works under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme, where tenders have been completed, and to start work by the end of February.

He gave these directions while reviewing the progress of various departmental works at the District Magistrate's office on Tuesday.

A total of Rs. 275 crore has been released to the district under the scheme, with Rs. 50 crore allocated each to Molakalmuru, Challakere, Chitradurga, Hiriyur, and Hosadurga assembly constituencies, and Rs. 25 crore to Holalkere.

The MLAs have proposed 304 works, out of which administrative sanction has been granted to 178 works costing Rs. 210 crore. Proposals for 126 works worth Rs. 65 crore are awaiting approval.

The District Magistrate emphasized that all departments—including the Public Works Department, KRIDL, Urban Local Bodies, Municipalities, Nirmiti Kendra, and Panchayat Raj—should increase the pace of work while achieving both physical and economic progress. Officials were also cautioned to avoid duplication with other grants such as DMF, KMERC, NDRF, SDRF, MPs' Area Development Fund, and Zilla Panchayat projects.

He warned that criminal action would be taken if the same work is undertaken under multiple grants.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy, Zilla Panchayat Chief Planning Officer Gayathri, PWD Executive Engineer Nagaraj, RD & PR Department Executive Engineer Hanumanthappa, and other officials.

Garden developed to eliminate garbage black spot

UDUPI

In a continued effort to keep Udupi city clean and beautiful, a new garden has been developed near Beedinagudde Maidan (Block Stat) to prevent garbage dumping in the area. The initiative was taken by 24 community mobilizers appointed under the Interpersonal Communication Skill Sub-unit of the IEC unit of Udupi Municipal Corporation SBM 2.0, under the guidance of the Municipal Commissioner. Working along with health inspectors and supervisors, the community mobilizers transformed a former garbage black spot into a green space and installed awareness banners to discourage people from dumping waste again. Environmental Engineer Ravi Prakash explained that simply removing garbage from black spots does not solve the problem, as waste continues to accumulate if behavior does not change.

He said that penalizing people alone is not a long-term solution. Instead, converting garbage-prone areas into attractive spaces like gardens helps prevent repeated dumping and supports the goal of a clean city. Ravi Prakash added that similar beautification work will be taken up at other black spots within municipal limits in the coming days.

Municipal Commissioner Mahantesh Hangaragi appreciated the efforts and appealed to the public to cooperate with the community mobilizers. Health Inspector Satish, Prakash Prabhu, Harish Billava, city division supervisors, and community mobilizers were present.

Power cuts planned in Chitradurga taluk areas

CHITRADURGA

Power supply will be disrupted in several parts of Chitradurga taluk on selected days in February and March due to emergency maintenance work. The outage is required as VJNL undertakes aqueduct construction for the Bhadra Upper River Project on major transmission lines. As part of the work, the 220 KV Hiremallanhole–Chitradurga line and the 66 KV Turuvanur–Chitradurga line will be shut down.

Power supply will be interrupted on February 5, 8, 16, 22 and 26, and on March 1 and 5, between 10 am and 5 pm. Areas affected include Madanayakanahalli, C.G. Halli, Yelavarthy, Muddapura, Hosagollarahatti, Bangarakkanahalli, Rayanahalli, Surenahalli, Ainahalli, Thuruvanoor, Doddaghatta, Hunasekatte, Isamudra, Kalagere, Kotehatti, Yalagodu, Nellikatte and nearby villages. Consumers have been requested to cooperate during the maintenance period, said the Chitradurga BESCOM Executive Engineer. Officials assured residents that essential services were informed in advance and safety measures would be strictly followed throughout the scheduled shutdown period locally.

Food grains meant for poor seized in raid

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Food department officials seized a large quantity of rice and ragi that were allegedly hoarded illegally in Gauribidanur, officials said on Tuesday.

The grains were meant for distribution under the government's Anna Bhagya scheme, which provides free food grains to poor families. Acting on a tip-off, officials raided a godown located in the Agricultural Produce Market area of Gauribidanur town.

According to Food Department head Y.K. Pushpalatha, the team found around four quintals of rice and 80 quintals of ragi stored inside the godown. The stock is suspected to have been diverted from the public distribution system and kept for illegal sale.

Food Department head Y.K. Pushpalatha reported about four quintals of rice and 80 quintals of ragi found in a godown, suspected diverted for illegal sale.

Officials said the godown belonged to a trader operating under the name Dhanalakshmi Traders. When officers reached the spot, the godown owner was not immediately cooperative, they said. After instructions from the Tahsildar, the premises were opened and inspected in the presence of officials.

The seized food grains have been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway to find out how the stock meant for beneficiaries was diverted. Authorities are also checking records to identify others who may be involved.

Food department officers said strict action will be taken against those found guilty of misusing government welfare supplies. They added that regular inspections will continue to prevent black-marketing of essential commodities.

Local residents welcomed the action and said such raids are necessary to ensure that food meant for poor families reaches them without delay. Officials urged the public to report any similar suspicious storage or sale of subsidized food grains so that timely action can be taken.

Chitradurga drought relief irregularities spark concern

CHITRADURGA

Challakere MLA T. Raghumurthy has raised serious concerns over irregularities in the distribution of drought relief in Chitradurga district. He urged authorities to take swift action against those involved in the misuse of funds.

According to the MLA, around Rs 48 crore meant for drought relief during 2022-23 has been misused across six taluks of the district. In Challakere alone, irregularities were reported in crop insurance and the Fasal Bima scheme, with Rs 83.10 lakh allegedly misappropriated. The total misuse in the district is estimated at Rs 38 crore.

Raghumurthy criticized the delay in taking action, saying that village administrators and tehsildars may be involved. "Even after three years, no effective measures have been taken," he said during a recent assembly session.

Minister Priyank Kharge responded, stating that a formal complaint has been registered and investigations are ongoing. A court restraining order is currently in place, but Kharge assured that discussions with the Advocate General are underway to lift the restraint and ensure timely action. The MLA emphasized that transparency is crucial and that proper measures should be implemented so that relief reaches the affected farmers without delay. Officials said they are closely monitoring the investigation and will take appropriate action based on the findings.

CHITRADURGA FARMERS RECEIVE HUGE CROP INSURANCE AID

CHITRADURGA

Farmers in Chitradurga district have received much-needed relief after suffering crop damage during the 2025 Kharif season. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), around 7,880 farmers have been given a total of Rs 12.40 crore as compensation.

The payout comes as a financial lifeline for families struggling after the loss of their crops due to unexpected natural calamities. Many farmers had been worried about their livelihoods, but the compensation has brought hope and stability to the affected communities.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, R.N.K. Thakur, highlighted that the PMFBY scheme has been successfully implemented in Karnataka since 2016. So far, a total of Rs 18,783 crore has been paid to 1.34 crore farmers across the state, showing the government's continuous support to the farming community.

MP Govinda Karajola, who raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, said the compensation will help farmers restart their agricultural activities and reduce financial stress. Local farmers expressed relief and gratitude, saying the timely aid will ensure that they can continue farming and support their families.

Officials also urged farmers to continue participating in crop insurance schemes to safeguard their future harvests against unforeseen events.

DC orders immediate action to prevent blood shortage

KOLAR

District Magistrate M.R. Ravi has issued strict instructions to ensure there is no shortage of blood for patients in the district amid rising health concerns, including cholera. Speaking at the District AIDS Control and Prevention Committee meeting at District Dalit Bhawan, he directed the health department to organize blood donation camps and maintain adequate blood stock in all hospitals.

Officials reported that the district currently has five functioning blood banks. Between April and December 2025, a total of 8,811 units of blood were donated. Despite this, occasional shortages have been reported, putting patients at risk. The meeting also discussed issues related to AIDS control, gender minority health, and drug regulation. The District Magistrate emphasized the importance of proactive measures and close monitoring of blood bank supplies to ensure life-saving blood is available when needed. Authorities have been asked to submit regular updates on blood availability.

MEDICAL SERVICE AUDIT

DC reviews Tumakuru hospital services

TUMAKURU

District Commissioner Shubha Kalyan conducted a surprise inspection of the District Hospital in Tumakuru, focusing on patient care and hospital administration. During the visit, he met District Surgeon Asgar Beg and discussed the growing number of patients visiting the Outpatient Department (OPD). He noted that around 1,800 patients were attending daily despite only two counters and over 110 patients being admitted each day. The Commissioner advised the OPD staff to ensure timely treatment and improve service quality. He also visited the Integrated Public Health Laboratory (IPHL), reviewing blood tests and other diagnostic services. The hospital was instructed to complete pending tenders for laboratory chemicals and resume laboratory operations immediately.

Shubha Kalyan emphasized the need to start services at the Maternal and Child Hospital without delay. He personally listened to complaints from patients, doctors, and hospital staff, highlighting the importance of smooth administration and quality healthcare delivery.

District officials were instructed to monitor patient flow, streamline hospital operations, and ensure that services meet the required standards. The visit reflects the administration's commitment to improving healthcare facilities in Tumakuru and addressing issues faced by both staff and patients.

Patients and staff welcomed the review, hoping it will lead to more efficient and timely medical care in the district hospital.

Hospital struggle follows Kanakapura fire tragedy

RAMANAGARA

A heartbreaking accident has taken the lives of three members of a small family in Kanakapura after a cooking gas leak caused a sudden fire inside their home. Neighbors said the family struggled for days in hospital before they passed away, as they could not get the full treatment they needed in time.

The victims were Siddha Raju, 50, his wife Savita, 45, and their son Prashant, 24. The family earned a living by selling snacks from a pushcart near their house. On January 26, they were preparing spices and food items when a gas cylinder pipe reportedly started leaking. Within minutes, the room filled with flames.

Seeing the fire spread, Siddha Raju tried to put it out, but all three were badly burned. Local residents rushed to help and called the fire brigade. Firefighters arrived quickly and controlled the blaze, but the family had already suffered serious injuries. They were taken to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru for treatment.

Prashant died first on January 27. His father died two days later, and Savita passed away on January 30. Their deaths have left neighbors in shock and sorrow.

Kanakapura police have registered a case and are investigating how the leak occurred. Locals say the tragedy shows the need for better safety awareness and quicker medical support for burn victims in emergency situations.

Community members gathered outside the damaged house to mourn the family and offer prayers. Social workers urged authorities to improve hospital access for poor patients and to spread awareness about safe handling of cooking gas cylinders in homes locally.

CJ Roy death: Decision on judicial inquiry lies with Sitharaman: GP

'The Income Tax (IT) Department falls under the finance minister. We have set up a special investigation team (SIT), which has begun the probe'

BENGALURU

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that the decision on whether a judicial inquiry will be set up to probe CJ Roy's death lies with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"I know that a letter has been written (by Kerala CM) to the finance minister, but I do not know the contents. Let us wait on what she decides. The Income Tax (IT) Department falls under the finance minister. We have set up a special investigation team (SIT), which has begun the probe. Based on their report, we will decide on the next course of action," Parameshwara said.

"The SIT will record statements of the family members and others as needed. Before the investigation concludes, we can't say the reason," he added.

Continuing its investigation, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is also examining the medical history of Roy to understand whether he had a history of mental illness. Reportedly, Roy had visited a psychiatrist in Jayanagar, a day before his death on January 30.

Sources said that Roy's claim to be debt-free may have led the IT department to probe him to find out the sources of his funds. "Investigations have accessed his call detail records and other technical records. A detailed scouring is underway to find out who Roy spoke with immediately before his death and who were frequent callers," sources said.

TTD laddu cam: AP to set up inquiry commission

HYDERABAD

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday decided to constitute an inquiry commission to identify the real masterminds behind the Tirumala laddu ghee adulteration scandal and ensure strict action.

Chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Amaravati Secretariat, the meeting sidelined all other agenda items to focus exclusively on the issue. Discussions centered on the CBI-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) report—formed under Supreme Court orders—which detailed the adulteration process and departmental lapses. Submitted to the government, it recommended action only against direct accused, falling short of exposing higher-level culprits, the cabinet felt.

"The Cabinet extensively reviewed key revelations, including ghee supply irregularities, relaxed tender norms, quality control failures, and forged documents," said Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav.

Sources in the government pointed out that Naidu presented the CBI report, sparking a nearly three-hour discussion. Ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, weighed in on next steps. The Cabinet unanimously mandated legal/administrative action against those named, plus reforms to prevent recurrence. It resolved to form a short-term inquiry team via the Commission of Enquiry for a time-bound report.

"Safeguarding Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's (TTD) sanctity is our top duty. No devotee's faith in Sri Vari Prasadam should be compromised," Keshav emphasised.

Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav accused the previous regime of Rs 250 crore corruption, ignoring 2022 CFTRI warnings, easing tenders for unverified firms, and supplying chemical-based ghee devoid of real milk betraying devotees and eroding temple purity.

Delhi businessman attacked by delivery agents

NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old businessman who went to a party at night was allegedly beaten to death by three food delivery riders in central Delhi's Connaught Place. The incident happened on the night of January 3. The businessman, Shivam Gupta, had been in a hospital fighting for his life for over two weeks. He died on January 19 of the severe injuries he suffered. The police are checking CCTV footage of the area, and have taken Gupta's blood-stained clothes for forensics work. A case has been filed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Smt.Deepa V W/O Rajkumar**, residing at #3, 3rd Main Road 4th Cross, V R Puram Palace Guttahalli, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560003, My client are willing to purchase the property by availing a loan with Piramal Finance limited by the present property owner Mr.Anandkumar P S/O Late Papaiah, Registered Sale Deed Document No.BDH-1-03292-2024-25, dated: 14-08-2024, my client further states that any disputes his ownership or possession of the schedule property member of the public are hereby notified that if anyone having any adverse claim in respect of the said property hereby advised to place their claim with appropriate written evidence. please note that claims received without written evidence within 7 Days from the date of publication of this notice there after will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.3,New Sy No. 112/4, Old Sy No.112, Situated at Kadugodi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Measuring: East to West: 30 Feet & North to South:27 in all measuring 810 Sq.ft, and bounded on the : **East by:** Sri A Nagaraju's Property, **West by:** 12 Feet Road, **North by:** Sri Venkesh's Property,South by: Site No.2 Sri Rakesh N Property.

HARISHA .S, Advocate
 # 1479. DRLS PLAZA.
UNION BANK BUILDING. T DASARAHALLI,
Bengaluru-560057. Mob No. 9060950265.

NAME CORRECTION

I, Rani Manjunath Aradhya w/o Manjunath Aradhya, resident of Aralepete, Ramanagara 562159, do declare that I am the mother of Prajwal Manjunath Aradhya. In his SSLC/10th Standard Marks Card, my name is mentioned as Honnamma Rani. But my name is presently recorded as RANI MANJUNATH ARADHYA in all my government identity documents and bank records. That the names HONNAMMA RANI and RANI MANJUNATH ARADHYA refer to one and the same person, i.e, myself. I have executed an affidavit to clarify the variation in my name for the purpose of my son's passport application. I have sworn to an affidavit before T.V. Indira, Notary Public, Ramanagara on 17-01-2026.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ZIDAN**, S/o Anees UL Haque, resident of No. 11, PK House, 9th Main, Ex Servicemen Colony, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560001, have changed my name to **ZIDANE UL HAQUE**, vide affidavit dated: 03.02.2026, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No. 1105/2025

Petitioner: Sri Gangadoddaiah S/o Munishmaiah Aged about 57 years, R/at #12, Honnavara, Purushanahalli, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. V/S
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name **LATE MUNISHAMAIAH** S/O LATE LINGAPPA who died on 08.10.1965 at Honnavara Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10.03.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 02.02.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Naveen.R, Advocate, Opp Court Road, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.
Date: 02.02.2026

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No. 1106/2025

Petitioner: Sri Gangadoddaiah S/o Munishmaiah Aged about 57 years, R/at #12, Honnavara, Purushanahalli, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. V/S
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name **LATE MUNIYAMMA** W/O LATE MUNISHAMAIAH who died on 14.08.1992 at Honnavara Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10.03.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 02.02.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Naveen.R, Advocate, Opp Court Road, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.
Date: 02.02.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ತಿಪಟೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಈಡೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಲೇಟ್ ಮರಿಬಸಪ್ಪ ಇವರ ಸುಮಾರು 70 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಶ್ರೀ ಲಿಂಗರಾಜು ಆದ ನಾನು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ನೀಡುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ನಾನು ಮತ್ತು ನನ್ನ ಕುಟುಂಬದವರು ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ 2024–25ನೇ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬ ದಲ್ಲಾಳಿಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಅನಾಮಧೇಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು (ಹೆಸರು, ವಿಳಾಸ ಮರೆತು ಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ) ಕ್ರಯದ ಕರಾರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಸರಿಯಷ್ಟೆ ಕ್ರಯದ ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಕ್ರಯ ಕರಾರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ದಿನ ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರದ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ತಂದುಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆಯೆಂದು ಹೋದವರು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಮೇಲಾದರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೂ ಬಂದು ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ನಮಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಳಾಸವಾಗಲಿ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕವಾಗಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಊರಿನ ಹೆಸರಾಗಲಿ ಪತ್ರದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಕಾರಣ ತಿಳಿದಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದಾಗಿ ಈ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಹೃದಯದ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ತುಂಬಾ ಹಣದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯಿದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಬೇರೆ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಲ ತೀರಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ತುಂಬಾ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಹಣದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯಿದ್ದು ಈ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈಗ ಈ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಕ್ರಯದ ಕರಾರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರ ಬಳಿ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ನಾನು ಮತ್ತು ನನ್ನ ಕುಟುಂಬದವರು ತಿಳಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ನಿಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದ ಕ್ರಯದ ಕರಾರು ಮುಂಗಡವನ್ನು ನಮಗಾದ ನಷ್ಟ ಕಡಿತ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ವಾಪಸ್ಸು ನೀಡಲು ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಬಂದು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಬಾಕಿ ಮುಂಗಡವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ವಿವರ

ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ತಿಪಟೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ರಾಮಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.89/5 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟುವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 0.17 ಗುಂಟೆ ವುಳ್ಳ ಖುಷ್ಕಿ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ.
ಪೂರ್ವ: ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ: ಹೊನ್ನಮ್ಮನವರ ಜಮೀನು, ಉತ್ತರ: ಚನ್ನಬಸವಯ್ಯನವರ ಜಮೀನು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ: ಸಣ್ಣನಂಜಪ್ಪನವರ ಜಮೀನು.
ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಕ್ರಯದ ಕರಾರು ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಕರಾರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಅಸಲು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಂದುಕೊಟ್ಟು ವಾಪಸ್ಸು ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಲಿಂಗರಾಜು, ಈಡೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ತಿಪಟೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮೊ: 8553484899

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificates issued by **ASM Technologies Limited** by Folio No. **ASM004813** standing in the name of **JLAVIA D'SOUZA** (clerical/typographical error by the company) – the correct name being **FLAVIA D'SOUZA**, now known as **FLAVIA MARIA DSOUZA PEREIRA** are stated to have been lost or misplaced and the registered share holder(s) applied for issue of duplicate share certificate(s).
The details of the share certificates are as under, comprising 10 Equity Share Certificates of 100 Equity Shares each (Total 1000 equity shares)

FOLIO NO.	REGISTERED SHARE HOLDER(S)	CERT. NO.	DIST. FROM	DIST. TO	EQUITY SHARES
ASM004813	JLAVIA D'SOUZA (Now known as FLAVIA MARIA DSOUZA PEREIRA)	23256	2315501	2315600	100
ASM004813		23257	2315601	2315700	100
ASM004813		23258	2315701	2315800	100
ASM004813		23259	2315801	2315900	100
ASM004813		23260	2315901	2316000	100
ASM004813		23261	2316001	2316100	100
ASM004813		23262	2316101	2316200	100
ASM004813		23263	2316201	2316300	100
ASM004813		23264	2316301	2316400	100
ASM004813		23265	2316401	2316500	100

Any person who has/have any claim in respect of the said certificate(s) should lodge his/her/their claim with all supporting documents with the Company or KFin Technologies Ltd, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Hyderabad-500032. If no valid and legitimate claim is received within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) to the share holder(s) listed above and no further claim would be entertained from any other person(s).

Sd/-
FLAVIA D'SOUZA
Now known as
FLAVIA MARIA DSOUZA PEREIRA
Date: 4th February 2026
Place: Mumbai

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No. 31/2025-26 **Dt.31.01.2026**

ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for the **works approved** under this division with KW-2 and 3 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems, which has been approved under the head of account 4059-80-051-0-60-422 SCP for the year 2025-26. The **Min APT is Rs.21.08 Lakhs and Min EMD amount is Rs.0.50 Lakhs. Max APT is Rs.80.73 Lakhs and Max EMD amount is Rs.1.61Lakhs.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 31.01.2026 to 09.02.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-IV & above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours.
Note: 1) Undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders and cancel the tender process and reject all tenders ant any time prior to the award of contract. **2)** Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/1592/KSMCA/903/2025-26

LOST DOCUMENT

On behalf of my client **Smt, Susheela** W/o. Akkoji rao, I would like to inform the general public that she has lost her original sale deed dated 2-9-1987 registered in the office of the sub registrar, Malur vide document No. 1097/1987-88 in respect of the property bearing site no.3, katha No. 1767, assessment No. 1712, measuring east to west-50 feet, north to south-70 feet, situated at Nehru badavane, Malur town, Kolar District. If anyone finds it, kindly contact me within 15 days from the date of this ad.

Sri. Pandurangappa, Advocate
S.V.S building
Near Venkateshwara hospital
Malur town. Mob: 9902540197

NAME CORRECTION NOTICE

I, Mohamed Tousif Ahamed, S/o Nisar Ahamed and Rahamath Unnisa, residing at Ward No. 23, Sunkal Street, New Masjid Mohalla, Magadi Town, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562120, state that my name was wrongly printed as Moahmed Tousif Ahamed in passport No. AJ616394. I am correcting it as per my Aadhaar and other official documents. My correct name is Mohamed Tousif Ahamed. I have sworn before Hareesh R., Notory, Magadi at 29-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Smt. SARASWATHI, W/o.late Nagappa, Residing at No.234, Opp. Panchayathi Office, Bidaraguppe, Bangalore-562107 who is the owner of Land bearing Sy.No.26/1 (Twenty Six sub One) Dry land measuring 5-00 (Five) Acres, situated at Kasavanahatti village, Masthi Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, the same will be purchased by below mentioned person. If any one found any type of Objections, Litigations, Legal Heir's objection with regard to the above said Sy.Number, they can contact within **15 (Fifteen days)** from the date of this publication. Please contact to the below mentioned Address and to Mobile Number. There is no any type of legal steps can be taken in case of the objections which are rises after 15 days of this Publication.

Address:-
V.M. Ravimurthy S/o.late Muniyappa, Vokkaleri Village, Vokkaler. Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District, Mobile No.9880303005.

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
Crl. Mis. No.: 689/2025
BETWEEN: Sri. Munishamappa & Another. ......PETITIONERS.
-AND-
The Tahasildar, Devanahalli. ....RESPONDENT

Whereas the above petition was filed by the petitioners for the relief order of granting Death Certificate of the Avula Narasamma W/o. late. Papa @ Doddapapaiah who died on 02-08-1987.
Whereas, if any interested parties who have any objections are Noticed to appear in the said case in person or by a Pleader duly authorized. The said petition stands posted on 04-03-2026 at 11-00 A.M. In default of appearance on that day as above mentioned, the matter will be heard and determined.
Given under my hand seal of the court this on this Day 30-01-2026.
By order of court,
Chief Ministertal Officer,
Civil Judge & JMFC Court Devanahalli.
Chethan Kumar .S., Advocates,
Abhayalakshmi complex,
Shanthi Nagar South, Sulibele Road,
Devanahalli Town. PH-9844907138.

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
Crl. Mis. No.: 688/2025
BETWEEN: Sri. Munishamappa & Another. ......PETITIONERS.
-AND-
The Tahasildar, Devanahalli. ....RESPONDENT

Whereas the above petition was filed by the petitioners for the relief order of granting Death Certificate of the Papa @ Doddapapaiah S/o late. Buduma who died on 12-05-1984.
Whereas, if any interested parties who have any objections are Noticed to appear in the said case in person or by a Pleader duly authorized. The said petition stands posted on 04-03-2026 at 11-00 A.M. In default of appearance on that day as above mentioned, the matter will be heard and determined.
Given under my hand seal of the court this on this Day 30-01-2026.
By order of court,
Chief Ministertal Officer,
Civil Judge & JMFC Court Devanahalli.
Chethan Kumar .S., Advocates,
Abhayalakshmi complex,
Shanthi Nagar South, Sulibele Road,
Devanahalli Town. PH-9844907138.

Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru South Dist.
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION RAMANAGARA
No: EE/RDWS&SD/RMG/TND-11/JE/OS.Call-2/1970/2025-26 Date: 03.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below As Per Standard Bid document. Two Cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. The Tenders are required to be submitted through e-Procurement mode through e-portal **https://kppp.kamataka.gov.in/ Providing Man Power Services on Outsource basis for Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division & Sub-Divisions In Bengaluru South District.**

Schedule is given below: **1)** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs.72.96 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.1,46,000/- 2)** Period of Contract: **12 Months 3)** Last Date for submission of Tender: **18.02.2026 Upto 5.30 P.M. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender: **20.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M. 5)** Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender: **21.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.**

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RDW&S Divison, Ramanagara.
DIPR/BSD/608/SA/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಆನೇಕಲ್
ಆನೇಕಲ್– 562106, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–27859225, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_anekal@yahoo.co.in
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080–27830092
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪು.ಕಾ.ಆ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/10/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ– ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಆನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಡೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ (2.5%)
01	ಆನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ದೊಡ್ಡಕೆರೆ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವ 3.3 ಎಂ.ಎಲ್.ಡಿ ಹಾಲೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೆರೆ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವ 3.1 ಎಂ.ಎಲ್.ಡಿ ಎಸ್.ಟಿ.ಪಿ ಘಟಕಗಳು 2 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಸೆಪ್ಟಿಕ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್, 3 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರೈಸಿಂಗ್ ಮೇನ್, 3 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವೆಟ್‌ವೆಲ್, 3 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ಜನರೇಟರ್ ರೂಂ ಮತ್ತು ಸೀವೇಜ್ ಪಂಪ್‌ಸೆಟ್‌ಗಳ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ.	DMA/2025-26/ OW/WORK_ INDENT 53758	68.46	1,36,920/ -

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.02.2026** ರಂದು **ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆ**ಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/5386/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ರಜತಾದ್ರಿ "ಸಿ" ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಉಡುಪಿ - 576104
Email: zpudupi@gmail.com **ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0820–2574880**
ಜಿಪಂಉಡು:ಆಡಆತ:ಸಿಆರ್: A೪: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ: ೦೧: ೨೦೨೫-೨೬ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-01-2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅರಿವು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ 113 ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ 10 ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ITDP ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 123 ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Documents for Procurement of Goods) ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಾಂಕ 29–01–2026 ರಿಂದ 07–02–2026ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಹರ್ಷರಾಜ್ ಇವರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 9880417532 ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

(ಸಹಿ)
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಉಡುಪಿ.
ಸಂ: ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ: ಉ:ಜಾಹಿ: 697: 2025–2026

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION, KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-5/Tender Notification/2025-26/7341 Date : 02.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (19) works Under MP LAD, CMIDP and KKRDB, for inden No. (GEN(10) 32907, 32959, 32962, 32901, 32899, 32878, 32875, 32870, 32868, 32985, (02 Work Res for Cat-2A, - 32958, 32871) (04-Work Res for SC Cat-32964, 32905, 32961,32812,) (02 Works Res for ST Cat-32963, 32906) (01 Work Res for Cat-1-32938) 2) Estimate cost : **Min Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, Max Rs. 250.00 Lakhs** 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class IV, III, II, I and above, 4) EMD Amount Min. **Rs.11,000.00** and Max. **Rs.3,18,000.00,** 5) Pre Bid Meeting : **11.02.2026 (11.00 Hrs),** 6) Last date for quries : **12.02.2026 (17.30 Hrs)**, 7) Last date for Submission of Bid : **13.02.2026 (16.00 Hrs)**, 8) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : **16.02.2026 (16.30 Hrs)**, 9) Date of Opening of Financial Bid (for Two Cover) : **17.02.2026 (11.30 Hrs),** 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 11) **Note : GST will be paid Separately.** 12) **website:www. e-proc.karnataka.gov.in,** 13) Bidders Should Note That : **Note:** 1) Undersigned reserved the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes in KPPP Portal Only.

Sd/-**Executive Engineer**
PWD Divison Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1042/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಂಪುರ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–0821–2330109 ದೂ:0821–2330109, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_srirampur@yahoo.com
ಶ್ರೀ.ಪ.ಪಂ.ಕಾ/ಜೆ.ಇ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.21/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀರಾಂಪುರ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿರವರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1, ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2, ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.– ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ನಿಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಇಎಂಡಿ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಶರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.srirampuratown.mrc.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.02.2026** ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟಗೆ . ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.02.2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ದರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **26.01.2026** ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ **11.00**ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ
01	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT53923	84.72	1.70	Other
02	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT53936	83.75	1.68	Other
03	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54388	62.33	1.25	Other
04	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54396	56.79	1.14	Other
05	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54398	55.68	1.11	Other
06	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54420	54.47	1.09	Other
07	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54426	84.5	1.69	Other
08	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54427	75.35	1.50	Other
09	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54429	82.67	1.65	Other
10	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK _INDENT54446	83.11	1.66	Other
11	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT53935	43.76	0.88	Other
12	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT53922	29.33	0.59	Other
13	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK _INDENT54379	36.1	0.72	Other
14	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54452	19.71	0.5	Other
15	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK INDENT53921	61.85	0.62	SC
16	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK INDENT53934	68.2	0.68	SC
17	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54430	82.22	0.82	SC
18	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK INDENT54455	75.1	0.75	SC
19	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT54447	29.73	0.3	SC
20	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK INDENT54392	83.97	0.84	ST
21	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK INDENT54421	80.98	0.81	ST
22	DMA/2025-26/FP/WORK_INDENT54440	84.32	0.84	ST
23	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53924	69.33	0.69	CAT-11(A)
24	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53925	84.56	0.85	CAT-11(A)
25	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54424	79.81	0.8	CAT-11(A)
26	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54443	82.42	0.82	CAT-11(A)
27	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54442	41.53	0.42	CAT-1

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಮಹೇಶ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್.ಕೆ.ಎಮ್)
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಂಪುರ

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಹೆಚ್.ಎಮ್.ಸುರೇಶ)
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಂಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1597/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

QUICK READ

NIA officials probing recent tension in Murshidabad district

Kolkata

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) probing the violence in Murshidabad district's Beldanga area for two days last month over the death of a migrant worker from West Bengal in neighbouring Jharkhand, is focussing on the angle of 'cyber-instigation' though which the local people were misled and provoked by projecting a case of suicide as a murder. The NIA officials have already visited the cyber-crime police station at Baharampur to collect information and clues on the messages sent from different social media accounts just before the violence broke out at Beldanga over the unfortunate incident.

Cong infighting over ticket distribution in Jagtial intensifies

Hyderabad

Infighting within the Congress in Telangana's Jagtial district over allotment of party tickets for municipal elections intensified with senior leader T. Jeevan Reddy openly expressing his anger over the party giving more tickets to the group of his rival M. Sanjay Kumar in Jagtial. The former minister is angry as his group has been given 20 tickets while Sanjay Kumar's followers managed to secure 30 tickets for the February 11 municipal elections. A large number of Congress cadres gathered at Jeevan Reddy's residence on Tuesday. He is holding a meeting with his supporters to decide the future course of action.

Italy's Leonardo forge ties to build helicopter ecosystem

Ahmedabad

Adani Defence & Aerospace and Italian major Leonardo on Tuesday announced a strategic partnership to develop, manufacture, and sustain a helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India. The MoU, signed between the two companies, is a "landmark partnership which will establish a fully integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India, addressing surging military demands and propelling the nation toward self-reliance in helicopter production," according to a joint statement issued by the two defence majors.

'Focus on grassroots to sustain NDA's electoral momentum'

Modi guided NDA leaders on elections, grassroots engagement, and development; MPs praised recent trade agreements boosting economic growth

NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has guided leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on preparations for upcoming state elections, urging them to remain closely connected with people at the grassroots level to sustain the coalition's electoral momentum.

Speaking to mediapersons after the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, Rijiju said the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of organisational strength and continuous public engagement. According to him, Modi advised NDA leaders and Members of Parliament to intensify their grassroots work, ensuring that the alliance's development agenda continues to resonate with voters across states heading into elections.

Rijiju also said that NDA MPs congratulated the Prime Minister for a series of recent trade agreements signed with developed nations, which he said would "greatly benefit the common people." He noted that these agreements were discussed in detail during the meeting, with leaders expressing optimism about their long-term economic impact.

The NDA Parliamentary Party meeting was convened on Tuesday at the Parliament Library Building in New Delhi. The session focused on deliberations over the Union Budget 2026 as well as the government's broader roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047, the vision document aimed at transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

Several senior leaders attended the meeting, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda, and BJP National President Nitin Nabin, along with other NDA ministers and Members of Parliament. Rijiju said the Bharatiya Janata Party formally welcomed its new national president, Nitin Nabin, during the meeting. He added that the session also included a detailed discussion on India's expanding global economic engagement under Modi's leadership. "There was discussion about historic trade deals under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, including nine trade agreements referred to as free trade agreements," Rijiju said.

Centre betraying farmers, Akhilesh over India–US Trade Deal

LUCKNOW

He accused the Centre of undermining India's agricultural independence in the name of trade liberalisation

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Centre over the India–United States trade agreement, alleging that opening India's agricultural market to American farm produce and food grains amounted to a betrayal of the country's farmers.

His remarks add to the growing political debate surrounding the implications of the recently concluded trade deal. Yadav said that nearly 70% of India's population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture and questioned whether the BJP-led government was deliberately weakening the country's self-reliant farming system under foreign pressure. He accused the Centre of undermining India's agricultural independence in the name of trade liberalisation.

Taking to X, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said the Bharatiya Janata Party had once again "attacked farmers" by agreeing to open Indian markets to American agricultural products. He demanded that the government explain what kind of pressure compelled it to allow farm produce and food grains from the United States into the Indian market.

Yadav alleged that the move would severely impact the livelihoods of millions of farmers across the country. He accused the BJP and its allies of acting as agents of foreign interests and sacrificing the welfare of Indian farmers for political and economic gains. Targeting the ruling party's repeated emphasis on self-reliance and Swadeshi, he said the BJP must clarify how much "commission" it had earned by compromising the country's economy.

The Samajwadi Party chief further warned that the consequences of the trade deal would extend beyond farmers. He said the opening of agricultural markets could hurt the lower middle class and middle class by encouraging the emergence of a new class of profiteers and middlemen in food grains and agricultural commodities. According to him, this would ultimately lead to a rise in prices of essential food items, increasing the cost of living for ordinary citizens.

Yadav also alleged that political funding from large corporate players would further push up prices, aggravating economic inequality. He cautioned that declining farm incomes could force farmers to sell their land to wealthy individuals and corporations, gradually concentrating land ownership in fewer hands.

Jailed Mokama MLA takes oath in Bihar assembly

PATNA

Newly elected Mokama legislator Anant Singh on Tuesday took the oath of office in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, despite being lodged in jail in connection with a murder case. His oath-taking was carried out under strict security arrangements after receiving special permission from the Patna Civil Court. Anant Singh, a prominent and often controversial political figure in Bihar, was brought to the Assembly from Beur Central Jail in Patna under heavy police escort. As per the court's directive, he was transported in an ambulance and remained under close surveillance throughout the process to ensure security and compliance with legal conditions.

Officials said the temporary movement from jail to the Assembly was carefully monitored, with multiple layers of security deployed along the route and within the Assembly premises. After arriving at the House, Singh formally took the oath as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, marking his official assumption of office following his recent electoral victory from Mokama.

After the oath ceremony, Anant Singh briefly met Nitish Kumar inside the Assembly premises. He also greeted several people present there, acknowledging supporters and legislators before being escorted back under security.

Prior to leaving Beur Jail earlier in the day, Singh spoke briefly to mediapersons and said his immediate focus was on securing his release from jail through legal means. He expressed confidence in the judicial process and reiterated his commitment to serving the people of his constituency.

Addressing the residents of Mokama, Singh said that development work in the constituency was continuing despite his incarceration. He assured voters that once he is released, he would personally meet people, listen to their concerns and complete all pending development works.

"All the work of Mokama is going on. When I come out, I will meet everyone and complete all the remaining work," he said.

Anant Singh's oath-taking has drawn attention due to the unusual circumstances under which it was conducted. Legal experts note that Indian law allows elected representatives in judicial custody to take oath with court permission, ensuring that the democratic mandate of voters is not negated by pending legal proceedings.

Boat capsizes in Mahisagar river, eight rescued safely

VADODARA

More than eight passengers were rescued after a small boat carrying daily commuters capsized in the Mahisagar river near Padra in Gujarat on Tuesday morning, narrowly averting a major tragedy, officials said. No casualties were reported, though authorities are still verifying the exact number of people on board at the time of the incident.

According to preliminary information, the passengers had boarded a private boat from the Padra side and were travelling towards Gambhira when the mishap occurred midstream. Officials said the boat appears to have lost balance, possibly due to a strong current in the river, causing it to suddenly tilt and overturn. All passengers were thrown into the water, triggering panic among those on board.

Eyewitnesses said passengers began shouting for help as they struggled to stay afloat. Local boatmen, swimmers and residents who were nearby immediately rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation without waiting for official assistance. Their swift response ensured that all passengers were pulled out of the river safely. "The boat suddenly tilted and overturned. Everyone fell into the water at once. We jumped in immediately and managed to rescue them," said a local eyewitness who actively participated in the rescue efforts. Videos from the scene showed residents forming a human chain near the riverbank as others used small boats to help bring people to safety.

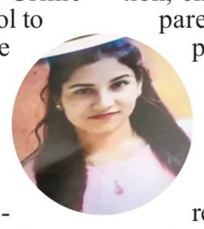
Police officials confirmed that no injuries or fatalities were reported, describing the rescue as timely and effective. "All passengers have been rescued safely. We are still confirming how many people were travelling in the boat," a police official said.

The incident has once again highlighted the growing risks faced by commuters following the closure of the Gambhira bridge, a key link between Padra in Vadodara district and parts of Anand district. The bridge was shut after it sustained structural damage, forcing residents to take a detour of nearly 50 to 60 kilometres.

CBI takes over Ankita murder probe, books 'unknown VIP'

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has formally taken over the investigation into the murder of Ankita Bhandari, registering a case against an "unknown VIP," signaling a new phase in the high-profile case that has stirred public outrage and political controversy in Uttarakhand. Sources said the CBI's Delhi-based Special Crime Branch assumed control to specifically probe the alleged VIP angle in the killing of the 19-year-old woman. Two CBI team members arrived in Uttarakhand to begin a detailed investigation, indicating the agency's intent to re-examine aspects of the case that resurfaced in recent weeks. The case regained attention after viral audio clips and videos circulated on social media, allegedly involving former BJP legislator Suresh Rathore and his alleged wife Urmila Sanawar. During a Facebook live session, Sanawar hinted at a possible "VIP" involvement, reigniting public debate and demands for a central investigation.



Political tensions in the state escalated as opposition parties and organisations renewed calls for a CBI probe, arguing that certain angles had not been fully explored. Responding to growing pressure, the Uttarakhand government recommended a central inquiry. On January 9, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami formally requested a CBI investigation, emphasizing that transparency and justice were paramount. He reiterated that no individual, regardless of influence, would be shielded from the law.

Ankita Bhandari, a receptionist at Vanantra Resort, was murdered on September 18, 2022. Her body was found in the Chilla Shakti Canal nearly a week later, sparking widespread protests across Uttarakhand. Following an investigation by a Special Investigation Team, a 500-page chargesheet was filed, naming 97 witnesses, of whom 47 testified in court. The prime accused, Pulkit Arya, along with co-accused Saurabh Bhaskar and Ankit Gupta, were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

LEGAL BATTLE ENDS

SC settles defamation dispute amicably

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday recorded that the long-running defamation dispute between Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Congress Rajya Sabha member and senior advocate Vivek Tankha has been amicably settled, bringing an end to the legal battle between the two political figures.

A bench comprising Justices MM Sundresh and NK Singh was hearing a special leave petition (SLP) filed by Chouhan, former Madhya Pradesh minister Bhupendra Singh Yadav, and former BJP state president V. D. Sharma. The petition sought quashing of criminal defamation proceedings initiated on a complaint filed by Tankha.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani informed the apex court that the parties had resolved their differences following a meeting in Parliament. He submitted that both sides had agreed to withdraw their respective legal actions, effectively closing the dispute.

"We are happy to inform the court that my client and Mr Tankha met in Parliament and settled the matter. Mr Tankha will withdraw his civil suit for defamation as well as the criminal complaint," Jethmalani told the bench.

Taking note of the submission, the Justice Sundresh-led bench acknowledged the settlement and made oral observations on the nature of political discourse. The court remarked that elected representatives are expected to display a higher degree of tolerance given the realities of public life and political debate.

"See, they are parliamentarians, they are more thick-skinned. The language of politicians is different, and being overly sensitive should be avoided as it is part of their job," the bench observed, underlining the need for restraint in resorting to criminal proceedings over political statements.

The case had drawn attention as it involved prominent leaders from rival political parties and raised broader questions about the use of defamation laws in political contests. Legal experts have often pointed out that criminal defamation cases between politicians tend to burden the judiciary and escalate political rivalries into prolonged legal disputes. By recording the amicable settlement, the Supreme Court effectively put an end to the matter, signalling the importance of dialogue and reconciliation over litigation.

Plaint against Vijay, singer Velmurugan for 'distortion'

CHENNAI

A police complaint has been lodged against actor-politician Vijay and folk singer Velmurugan, alleging that a devotional song dedicated to Lord Murugan was mocked and distorted during the third anniversary celebrations of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) held on February 2.

The complaint was filed by advocate Kutrala Nathan with the Nellai Municipal Police, seeking legal action against Velmurugan for allegedly altering the lyrics of the well-known Murugan devotional hymn Maruthamalai Mamaniye. The performance took place during the TVK anniversary programme at the party's Panaiyur office in Chennai.

According to the complaint, Velmurugan replaced the traditional devotional line "Varuvai Kuganey" with politically loaded words praising Vijay and the TVK. The complainant alleged that the altered rendition hurt the religious sentiments of Murugan devotees and amounted to insulting and trivialising a sacred hymn revered by millions of followers.

The complaint also names Vijay, TVK general secretary N. Anand, and party functionary Aadhav Arjuna, accusing them of being responsible for or complicit in allowing the controversial performance to take place. It alleges that the organisers failed to prevent the use of a religious composition for political messaging.

The petition further claimed that rendering the devotional song with political intent amounted to mixing religion with partisan propaganda. Such actions, it said, could offend religious believers, provoke communal disharmony and potentially create law and order problems.

The advocate stated that devotional hymns hold deep spiritual significance and should not be altered or repurposed to glorify political figures or parties. Allowing such performances, the complaint argued, sets a dangerous precedent and disrespects faith.

Police officials said the complaint has been received and would be examined in accordance with the law. No formal case has been registered so far, and authorities said further action would depend on the outcome of a preliminary inquiry.

QUICK READ

Cuba confirms it Is in 'communications' with US

Cuba

Cuba and the US are in communication, but have not yet entered into a formal dialogue, a senior Cuban diplomat told agencies, as bilateral tensions persist over economic and geopolitical pressures. Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, Cuba's deputy foreign minister, said Washington was aware that Havana was ready to have a responsible dialogue. He characterised current interactions as limited exchanges of messages and diplomatic contacts rather than a structured negotiation with clear terms. The acknowledgement marks the first official hint from Cuba that any level of contact is underway after a period of hostility .

'Prepared for post-new START world as nuclear arms'

Moscow

Russia is prepared to face a new global reality in which there are no binding limits on the world's largest nuclear arsenals, a senior Russian official said on Tuesday, as the landmark New START arms control treaty is set to expire later this week. The comments underscore a major turning point in international nuclear diplomacy, raising concerns about strategic stability between the world's two biggest nuclear powers. Unless Moscow and Washington reach a last-minute bilateral understanding, the New START treaty will formally expire on February 5. The agreement, signed in 2010 by then U.S. President Barack Obama and former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems held by the United States and Russia.

Russia renews attacks on frozen Ukrainian cities

The attack on Kyiv and Kharkiv comes after a so-called "energy truce" agreed by Donald Trump with Vladimir Putin expired at the weekend

KYIV

Russian forces launched a fresh wave of missile and drone attacks on Ukraine early Tuesday, striking the capital Kyiv, the northeastern city of Kharkiv, and other urban centres, according to Ukrainian officials.

The coordinated assault triggered multiple fires, damaged residential buildings, and delivered further blows to already strained energy infrastructure, intensifying pressure on civilians during one of the coldest periods of winter.

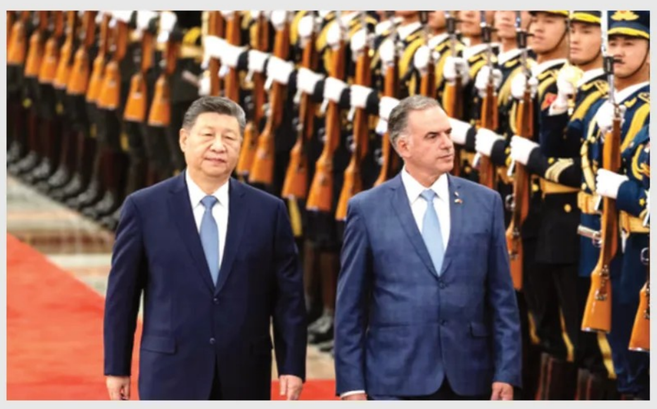
Authorities reported that at least four people were injured across Kyiv and Kharkiv. The strikes came just hours before the next planned round of three-sided talks aimed at resolving the nearly four-year-old war, scheduled to take

place in the United Arab Emirates. The timing of the attacks underscored the ongoing volatility of the conflict, even as diplomatic efforts continue in parallel.

In Kyiv, where nighttime temperatures plunged close to minus 20 degrees Celsius, residents were jolted awake by loud explosions shortly after midnight. Witnesses cited by Reuters reported the simultaneous use of missiles and drones, with air defence systems engaging targets across the city. An air raid alert remained in effect for more than five hours, forcing residents to shelter amid freezing conditions.

The attacks caused damage in at least five districts of the capital, hitting three apartment blocks and a building housing a kindergarten, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of the city's military administration, in a post on Telegram. Videos shared on social media showed flames engulfing an apartment on the upper floors of a residential building, highlighting the risks faced by civilians as the conflict drags on.

These latest strikes followed a series of massive attacks on Kyiv since New Year's Day that knocked out electricity and heating to hundreds of apartment blocks. Emergency crews continued working through Monday to restore heating systems, a critical task as temperatures remain dangerously low.



China-Uruguay call for 'equal, multipolar world'

China and Uruguay pledge deeper strategic cooperation as President Xi urges joint efforts for an equal and orderly multipolar world.

BEIJING

President Xi Jinping and Uruguayan President Yamandu Orsi met in Beijing on Tuesday to reaffirm a deepening strategic partnership aimed at fostering global cooperation and promoting what Xi described as an equal and orderly multipolar world. The meeting culminated in a series of joint declarations and cooperation agreements spanning trade, science, technology, the environment and intellectual property.

Xi told Orsi that China supports Latin American and Caribbean nations in safeguarding their sovereignty, security and development interests. He said this backing would help defuse growing geopolitical tensions and counter what he termed escalating unilateral bullying in international affairs.

The visit is historically notable, marking the first time a South American head of state has travelled to the Chinese capital since the January U.S. invasion of Venezuela and the capture of then-President Nicolás Maduro. Analysts say the timing underscores China's efforts to strengthen ties in Latin America even as global geopolitical divisions widen.

During the talks, leaders signed a joint declaration elevating the China-Uruguay comprehensive strategic partnership, alongside 12 cooperation documents. These agreements cover broad areas such as science and technology, environmental protection, trade, intellectual property rights and other fields intended to expand economic and diplomatic collaboration.

Orsi described the current moment in bilateral relations as the best in the history of China-Uruguay ties and called on both nations to commit to raising their partnership to new heights. He leads a 150-strong delegation including business leaders and government officials, with the visit scheduled to continue through February 7 and include engagements in Shanghai.

Uruguay's economy already benefits significantly from its relationship with China, which has been its top export destination. The two countries trade extensively in agricultural goods such as wood pulp, soybeans and beef, while Uruguay imports machinery, electronics and chemicals from China. Experts say the newly signed agreements could pave the way for diversification into services and emerging sectors like green technology and digital innovation.

'No need for war': UAE tells Iran to hold nuclear talks with US

DUBAI

The Middle East does not need another confrontation between the United States and Iran, and Tehran must urgently reach a nuclear agreement with Washington, a senior official from the United Arab Emirates said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a panel discussion during the World Governments Summit in Dubai, the UAE's diplomatic adviser emphasised that diplomacy remains the only viable path to long-term regional stability.

Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, said the region had already endured a series of destructive conflicts and could ill afford another crisis triggered by escalating tensions between United States and Iran. I think that the region has gone through various calamitous confrontations. I don't think we need another one, Gargash told the audience.

He added that direct negotiations between Tehran and Washington were essential to prevent recurring crises that unsettle the region.

His remarks came as Iranian and U.S. officials confirmed that both sides would resume nuclear talks in Turkey, reviving diplomatic efforts to address Iran's nuclear programme. According to officials cited by Reuters, the discussions are aimed at reducing tensions and avoiding a potential military escalation.

The renewed talks follow stark warnings from U.S. President Donald Trump, who said that bad things would likely happen if an agreement could not be reached, noting that large U.S. warships were heading towards Iran. His comments heightened concerns across the Middle East that a breakdown in diplomacy could quickly spiral into open conflict.

'US Judge blocks Trump admin move'

CHELSAE

A federal judge on Monday blocked the Trump administration from revoking legal protections for more than 350,000 Haitians living in the United States, preventing their potential deportation to a country overwhelmed by gang violence and instability. The ruling delivers a significant setback to the administration's immigration agenda and offers temporary relief to hundreds of thousands of Haitian nationals. U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes, based in Washington, D.C., issued an order halting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from terminating Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The decision prevents the policy change from taking effect on Wednesday, as originally planned by the administration.

Iran's prez seeks 'fair and equitable negotiations' with US

TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that negotiations with the US could be pursued to secure Iran's national interests, provided the process is conducted without threats or what he described as unreasonable expectations.

His comments offered a cautiously conciliatory tone amid renewed diplomatic manoeuvring over long-standing tensions between Tehran and Washington. In a post on X, Pezeshkian said he had taken into account requests from friendly regional countries urging Iran to respond positively to suggestions from the U.S. president for renewed talks. He said these considerations had prompted him to instruct Iran's foreign ministry to take preparatory steps toward negotiations, but only under clearly defined conditions.

Taking into account demands from friendly regional countries to respond to the U.S. President's suggestion for talks, I instructed the foreign minister to prepare the ground for equitable and fair negotiations, Pezeshkian wrote.

Philippine lawmakers weigh impeachment for Marcos

KUALA LUMPUR

Lawmakers in the Philippines met on Tuesday to decide whether to advance impeachment complaints against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who is accused of betraying public trust, engaging in corruption and violating the constitution.

The deliberations mark a critical moment for the country's political landscape, as the outcome could determine whether the first-term president faces a full impeachment process.

Marcos, who is midway through his six-year term and has denied all allegations, is facing two separate impeachment complaints. The petitions were filed by a lawyer and a group of activists, reflecting growing political pressure from sectors critical of his administration. On Monday, the House justice committee cleared an initial procedural hurdle after ruling that both complaints were sufficient in form, allowing them to move to the next stage of review.

The committee reconvened on Tuesday to assess whether the complaints have enough substance to warrant further proceedings. This phase involves examining whether the accusations are supported by sufficient grounds under the constitution to justify advancing the impeachment process.

'Taiwan must look to democracies for trade'

TAIPEI

Taiwan should look to fellow democracies rather than China for its future trade and economic partnerships, President Lai Ching-te said on Tuesday, as his government outlined plans to strengthen cooperation with the United States in strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence and critical minerals.

His remarks underscored Taipei's determination to align its economic strategy with like-minded partners amid rising geopolitical competition in the Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking at a news conference at the presidential office, Lai addressed the outcomes of the latest U.S.–Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue, describing the talks as a strong endorsement of Taiwan's global economic direction. Taiwan is on the right economic path and is striding

confidently onto the world stage, Lai said. He added that the island had both the capability and confidence to work with democratic partners to help lead the next generation of global prosperity.

Senior Taiwanese and U.S. officials last week held discussions on cooperation in artificial intelligence, advanced technology and drones at a high-level forum launched during the first administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. The U.S. State Department praised Taipei as a vital partner, reflecting Washington's growing emphasis on Taiwan's role in resilient and secure supply chains.

During the meetings, both sides signed statements on cooperation in economic security as well as the Pax Silica Declaration, a U.S.-led initiative aimed at safeguarding artificial intelligence and semiconductor supply chains. The effort comes amid intensifying competition with China, Washington's main strategic rival, which claims Taiwan as its own territory.

Lai's comments highlighted a clear contrast between Taiwan's democratic alliances and Beijing's pressure campaign. He stressed that deeper engagement with democratic economies would strengthen Taiwan's resilience, innovation capacity and international standing, while reducing vulnerability to political coercion.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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4	3	9	7	5	1	2	6	8
6	7	8	4	2	9	1	3	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

STORM KRISTIN

Portugal braces for storm Leonardo as flood risks rise

LISBON

Portugal is on high alert as authorities warn that a new storm could bring fresh flooding and damage, even as the country continues to grapple with the aftermath of Storm Kristin.

Meteorological officials say the latest system, named Leonardo, is expected to affect large parts of the country from Tuesday afternoon through Saturday, raising concerns about renewed disruption and infrastructure strain.

The Portuguese Institute of the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA) said late on Monday that Storm Leonardo is forecast to bring periods of heavy rainfall, strong winds and po-

tentially hazardous conditions across mainland Portugal. Authorities warned that saturated ground and swollen rivers, left behind by previous storms, could significantly increase the risk of flooding and landslides in vulnerable areas.

Emergency services have been placed on heightened readiness, particularly in low-lying regions and areas prone to river overflow. Local officials urged residents to remain vigilant, avoid unnecessary travel during severe weather, and closely follow updates from civil protection authorities. Temporary repairs carried out after Storm Kristin may also be tested by renewed heavy rain and strong gales.

Portugal's situation reflects a broader pattern of extreme weather affecting the Iberian Peninsula in recent months. A succession of storms has battered the region, bringing intense rainfall, thunderstorms, snowfall in higher elevations and powerful winds. In neighbouring Spain, southern regions have experienced what some residents describe as the wettest winter in four decades, with reservoirs filling rapidly and repeated weather alerts disrupting daily life.

Meteorologists say the repeated storm systems are unusual in both frequency and intensity, placing sustained pressure on infrastructure, agriculture and emergency response capabilities. While the rainfall has helped ease long-standing drought conditions in parts of the peninsula, officials caution that the immediate risks from flooding and storm damage outweigh the longer-term benefits.

As Storm Leonardo approaches, Portuguese authorities stressed that preparedness and public cooperation would be critical in limiting damage. With recovery from earlier storms still underway, the coming days are expected to test the country's resilience once again, as communities brace for another round of severe weather.

QUICK READ

Adani Ports' Q3 profit rises 21% to ₹3,043 crore

Mumbai

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Tuesday reported strong financial performance for the December quarter (Q3 FY26), with consolidated net profit rising 21% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 3,043 crore. The company had posted a profit of Rs 2,518 crore in the same quarter last financial year (Q3 FY25), as oer its stock exchange filing. Revenue for the quarter also saw a sharp increase of 22%, reaching Rs 9,705 crore compared to Rs 7,964 crore in Q3 FY25. India's largest integrated transport utility benefited from solid growth across its core businesses, including ports, logistics, marine services and international operations.

GCC market to touch $110 bn growing 10% annually

New Delhi

India is poised to host over 2,400 GCCs by 2030 employing over 2.8 million professionals, and the country's GCC market could reach a size of $105 – 110 billion by growing at a compound annual growth rate of 10%, a report said on Tuesday. The report from FICCI and ANAROCK said India's office market posted all time high leasing across the top seven cities in 2025, driven largely by Global Capability Centres that now account for more than 40% of gross leasing. Beating macro-economic and geopolitical headwinds, India's office market in 2025 demonstrated marked resilience, with all-time high office space leasing, the report said.

India takes firm steps for self-reliance in critical materials

New Delhi

With coordinated domestic and global initiatives, India is positioning itself as a reliable player in advanced materials value chains, taking decisive steps toward self-reliance in critical materials by establishing a domestic ecosystem for Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs). The Rs 7,280 crore REPM Manufacturing Scheme and the Union Budget 2026–27 announcement of dedicated rare earth corridors to create an integrated framework for mining, processing, research, and manufacturing. The Budget 2026–27 has announced the creation of Dedicated Rare Earth Corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu to promote mining, processing, research, and manufacturing.

SHARED PROSPERITY AHEAD

'US trade deal sets stage for deeper trade'

'It will further strengthen the trust between both countries and boost confidence in business, trade, and investment'

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday welcomed the India–United States trade agreement, describing it as a defining step forward in bilateral economic ties that would unlock new opportunities for growth, investment and shared prosperity.

India and the United States finalised the trade deal following a phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump. As part of the agreement, the United States agreed to cut reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent, while India will ease certain trade barriers on American products.

Reacting to the development, Gadkari took to X to praise the leadership of both leaders. Today marks a defining step forward in India–US economic relations as the trade deal is finalised with tariffs reduced to 18 per cent, opening new avenues for growth and cooperation, he said. He congratulated Prime Minister Modi and President Trump for securing what he called a historic outcome.

Gadkari said the agreement would strengthen mutual trust and boost business confidence, laying the foundation for deeper engagement between the two economies. The deal strengthens trust, boosts business confidence, and sets the stage for deeper trade, investment, and shared prosperity for both nations, he added.

President Trump confirmed that the agreement followed his phone call with Prime Minister Modi. He said India would also reduce its dependence on Russian oil and increase purchases of U.S. energy, technology and agricultural products. According to Trump, the deal would further strengthen strategic ties between the two countries and support broader efforts to end the war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Modi also welcomed the agreement, calling his conversation with President Trump wonderful. In a post on X, he said he was delighted that Made in India products would now face a reduced tariff of 18 per cent in the U.S. market. Modi thanked President Trump on behalf of India's 1.4 billion people for what he termed a significant and positive announcement.

Economists and industry leaders say the tariff reduction is expected to benefit key Indian export sectors such as manufacturing, textiles, engineering goods and agriculture, while also opening doors for greater U.S. investment in India.

India-US ties will flourish further with trade deal: Shah, Nadda

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Tuesday welcomed the landmark India–US trade deal, saying it would significantly benefit both nations and further strengt,en their strategic ties. The deal, finalised a day earlier, has been widely praised by political leaders and industry stakeholders as a major step forward in bilateral economic relations. Taking to X, Shah described the agreement as a big day for India–US ties. He said the trade deal, which includes a reduction of U.S. tariffs on Indian goods to 18%, would pave the way for stronger trade relations and mutual growth. Congratulating Modi and Trump, Shah said the historic agreement would elevate the strategic ties between the two countries and allow business ties to flourish further. A big day for India–US relations as the deal has been locked with a significantly reduced tariff of 18%, paving the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth. He added that the agreement would greatly benefit both nations and their people by expanding trade and economic cooperation. Nadda also welcomed the deal, crediting PM Modi's leadership for enhancing India's global economic standing. In his post, Nadda said that under Modi's guidance, India's economic journey had entered a new phase of global confidence and momentum. He noted that expanded access for Made in India products in international markets would empower both youth and farmers, while a robust India–US partnership would deliver benefits extending well beyond the two countries.

Indian, American industry bodies, leaders rejoice

Industry bodies and leaders in both India and the U.S., and across sectors, have welcomed the announcement of a deal between India and the U.S. under which tariffs on India are set to be slashed from the current 50% to 18%. Leading Indian industrialists termed it historic, saying the sharp reduction in tariffs to 18% would strengthen strategic and economic ties between the world's two largest democracies and unlock fresh opportunities for investment, collaboration and global growth. Business leaders said the deal reflects long-term strategic thinking and would provide immediate relief to exporters while enhancing confidence across global supply chains. The agreement was announced after a phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, with both leaders highlighting its far-reaching economic and geopolitical significance. Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra described the agreement as a natural convergence between two like-minded economies. In a post on X, he wrote, More evidence of the benefits of 'making haste slowly.' When the noise subsides, two natural partners will come together. His remarks were widely interpreted as underscoring the value of patience and steady diplomacy in achieving meaningful economic outcomes.

Naidu terms deal a 'historic milestone'

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday hailed the India-US trade deal as a historic milestone for global economic stability. He congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on concluding this landmark trade agreement with the US. Reducing tariffs to 18% is a visionary move that strengthens the bond between the world's two greatest democracies and ensures continued global growth, he said. Under the PM's leadership, India is cementing its role as a global economic powerhouse. This deal will significantly boost India's export competitiveness, creating immense opportunities for our youth and farmers, including those in Andhra Pradesh, Naidu, whose Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is a key partner in the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India reaching an agreement with the United States. In a social media post, Pawan Kalyan extended his 'heartfelt congratulations to PM Modi for energising India's economy by concluding two world-class trade agreements within a span of a week. The Jana Sena leader said following last week's landmark mother of all deals with the European Union, the agreement with US President Donald Trump, is set to further strengthen our economic prospects. In particular, the reduction of tariff charges to 18% will significantly benefit our farmers by improving market access and export competitiveness. "I sincerely thank the PM for consistently taking timely and decisive steps that align with the aspirations of the people of Bharat, wrote Pawan Kalyan," he added.

Deal to help generate jobs, add more to forex: NSE

The India–United States trade agreement is the most important economic deal for the country and is expected to generate employment, boost exports and strengthen foreign exchange inflows, said Ashishkumar Chauhan, Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange of India, on Tuesday. Chauhan said the trade pact had been anticipated for a long time and would now be implemented immediately. He contrasted it with the expected India–Europe trade agreement, which he said could take another six months to roll out. According to Chauhan, India's unique combination of skilled manpower, technological capability and rapid adoption of high-tech solutions has made it an attractive partner for global trade negotiations. India is the only country that has manpower, high-tech appreciation and technology adoption. That is why all countries are ready to negotiate with us, he said. Chauhan added that the deal would significantly increase Indian exports to the US, resulting in more job creation and higher foreign exchange earnings. He highlighted that the reduction in U.S. reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods from 25% to 18% would provide a major boost to labour-intensive sectors.

SAIL, one of India's largest steel producers, reported its highest-ever cumulative steel sales, driven by strong demand, logistics efficiency and improved customer outreach

SAIL records highest-ever sales, 16% growth

NEW DELHI

Steel Authority of India Limited, one of India's largest steel producers and a Maharatna public sector enterprise, on Tuesday announced that it has achieved its highest-ever cumulative sales during the April to January period of the current financial year. The milestone underscores the company's strong operational performance and growing market reach amid improving demand conditions in the domestic steel sector.

As per a statement, SAIL recorded sales of 16.6 million tonnes during April–January of FY 2025–26. This represents a robust growth of 16% compared with 14.3 million tonnes sold during the same period in the previous financial year. The company said this was the best cumulative sales performance in its history for these ten months.

SAIL also delivered its highest-ever monthly sales figures in January, reflecting sustained momentum toward the latter part of the financial year. In January 2026 alone, the company sold 1.84 million tonnes of steel, more than 10% higher than the 1.68 million tonnes sold in January of the previous year. The strong monthly performance highlights improved execution across production, dispatch and marketing operations.

The company attributed the record sales to a combination of higher dispatches from its plants, expanded door-delivery volumes and increased sales through warehouses. These measures, SAIL said, demonstrate its strong focus on customer-centricity and logistics efficiency while deepening its penetration across key markets.

The company achieved record dispatches from plants, expanded door delivery volumes and enhanced warehouse sales, the statement said, adding that these efforts helped streamline supply chains and ensure timely delivery to customers across sectors such as infrastructure, construction and manufacturing.

KEY POINTS

- Record 16.6 MT sales in Apr-Jan FY26
- 16% year-on-year growth
- Best-ever January sales at 1.84 MT
- Reduced inventory and borrowings
- Enhanced customer delivery and logistics

The surge in sales had a positive impact on SAIL's financial position. Higher dispatches enabled the company to reduce its inventory by around 0.25 million tonnes, improving working capital efficiency. The improved cash flow from strong sales led to a significant reduction in borrowings, strengthening the company's balance sheet.

India floats weight-based jewellery baggage rule

NEW DELHI

The government has simplified the baggage rules for Indians who want to bring home jewellery from abroad. The Central Government has notified the Baggage Rules, 2026. The new Customs Baggage rules have removed the 'value' cap on jewellery, while keeping the maximum quantity unchanged.

Under the Act, Jewellery is defined as articles of adornment ordinarily worn by a person, made of gold, silver, platinum, or such other precious metals, whether studded or not.

New baggage rule for jewellery

The government has introduced special allowances for jewellery solely on a weight basis by removing outdated value caps, under which eligible returning residents or tourists of Indian origin, after staying abroad for more than one year, are allowed to duty-free jewellery purely on a weight basis.

Female passengers can bring up to 40 grams, while other than female passengers can bring up to 20 grams of jewellery, the same as earlier limits. Children under the age of 15 years can also bring gold ornaments of a limit of 40 grams without paying any customs duty.

This means, from the earlier limit of Rs 1 lakh, now women can bring in up to Rs 6 lakh worth of gold at today's rate.

Old baggage rule for jewellery

Earlier, Indian passport holders were allowed to bring up to 20 grams of gold (maximum value up to Rs 50,000) duty-free, while women and children could bring up to 40 grams of gold (maximum value up to Rs 1,00,000) duty-free.

What's New

But now, the 'value' cap has been removed. A resident or tourist of Indian origin residing abroad for more than one year, on return to India, will now be allowed duty-free clearance of jewellery up to a weight of forty grams, if brought by a female passenger or twenty grams if brought by a passenger other than a female passenger in bona fide baggage.

AI DATA CENTERS IN SPACE

Musk 'unite' SpaceX and xAI in $1.25 tn mega merger

MUMBAI

US-based entrepreneur Elon Musk said that his aerospace firm SpaceX has acquired his AI startup, xAI, and shared plans to scale AI compute in space by launching large constellations of satellites that act as orbital data centres.

Launching a million tonnes per year of satellites generating kilowatts (kW) of compute power per tonne would add 100 gigawatts of AI compute capacity annually, with no ongoing operational or maintenance needs. Ultimately, there is a path to launching 1 TW/year from Earth, said Elon Musk in a statement.

He said that space based AI is the only viable long term path to meet the vast power needs of advanced AI, arguing that near constant solar power in orbit can deliver compute at far lower cost than terrestrial data centres.

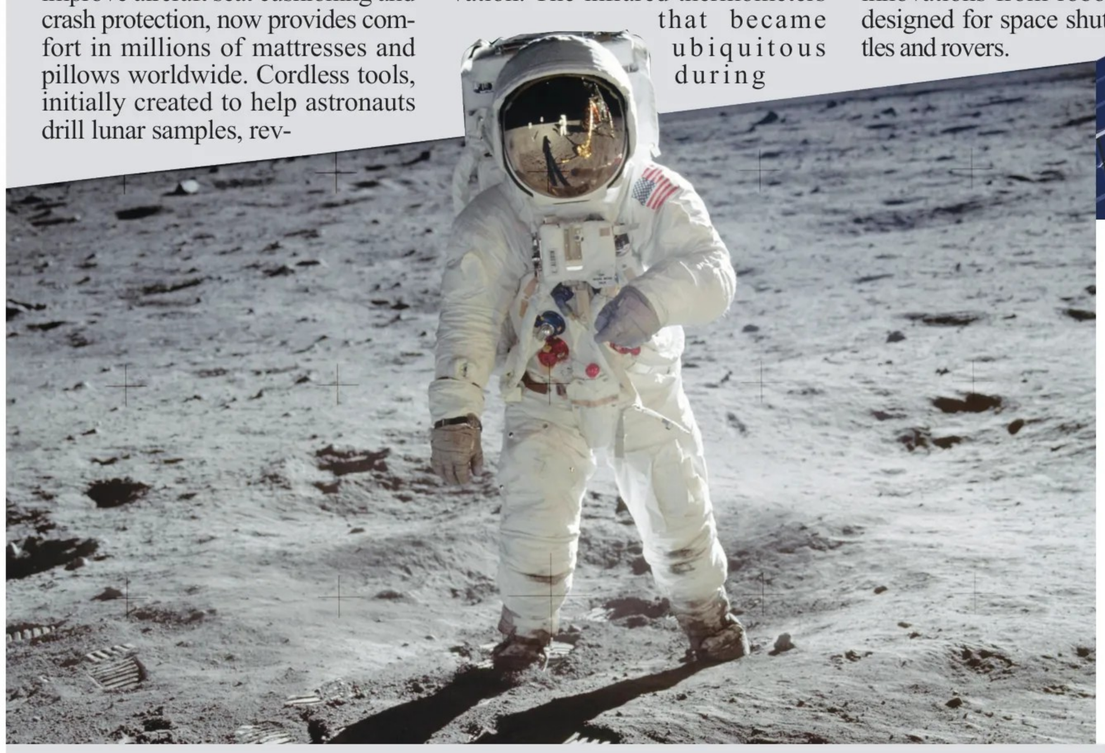
The cost-efficiency alone will enable companies to advance training their AI models and processing data at unprecedented speeds and scales, the tech leader said. To harness even a millionth of our Sun's energy would require over a million times more energy than our civilisation currently uses! The only logical solution, therefore, is to transport these resource-intensive efforts to a location with vast power and space, he said.

Current advances in AI are dependent on large terrestrial data centers, which require immense amounts of power and cooling, he said.

Musk warned that global electricity demand for AI cannot be met with terrestrial solutions without imposing hardship on communities and the environment. SpaceX's Starship will begin delivering the much more powerful V3 Starlink satellites to orbit in 2026, with each launch adding more than 20 times the capacity to the constellation as the current Falcon launches of the V2 Starlink satellites.

How Human Space Exploration Changed Everything?

When Neil Armstrong placed his boot on the lunar surface in 1969, he famously called it "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." More than five decades later, those words resonate with even greater significance. Human space exploration has fundamentally transformed our world in ways that extend far beyond the rockets, satellites, and moon rocks that typically capture headlines. From the technology in our pockets to our understanding of Earth's fragility, from international cooperation to philosophical shifts in how we see ourselves, the quest to explore space has reshaped human civilization.



The technological revolution sparked by space exploration represents perhaps its most visible legacy. The Apollo program alone catalyzed innovations that now permeate everyday life. Memory foam, originally developed to improve aircraft seat cushioning and crash protection, now provides comfort in millions of mattresses and pillows worldwide. Cordless tools, initially created to help astronauts drill lunar samples, revolutionized home improvement and construction. Water purification systems designed for spacecraft now deliver clean drinking water to communities lacking reliable infrastructure. Medical technology has particularly benefited from space-age innovation. The infrared thermometers that became ubiquitous during recent health crises were adapted from technology used to measure star temperatures. CAT scanners and MRI machines employ digital imaging technology refined through NASA's need to enhance space photographs. Artificial limbs have incorporated innovations from robot arms designed for space shuttles and rovers.

Even the tiny cameras used in minimally invasive surgery trace their lineage to technology developed for space missions where every gram of weight mattered.

The economic impact of space exploration extends into trillions of dollars. The satellite industry alone generates over 250 billion dollars annually, providing services that include GPS navigation, weather forecasting, telecommunications, and Earth observation. Precision agriculture uses satellite data to optimize crop yields and reduce waste. Shipping and aviation rely on satellite navigation to move goods and people efficiently. Financial markets depend on satellite communications for instantaneous global transactions. The entire infrastructure of modern connectivity owes its existence to those early investments in getting beyond Earth's atmosphere.

The space race also transformed education and inspired generations of scientists and engineers. In the United States, the launch of Sputnik in 1957 triggered dramatic reforms in science and mathematics education. Universities expanded their engineering programs. Governments invested heavily in research and development.

The visible goal of reaching the Moon motivated countless young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This educational emphasis created a skilled workforce that drove innovation not just in aerospace but across all technological sectors.

International cooperation represents another profound change wrought by space exploration. The International Space Station exemplifies this transformation. Once, space was an arena for Cold War competition between superpowers.

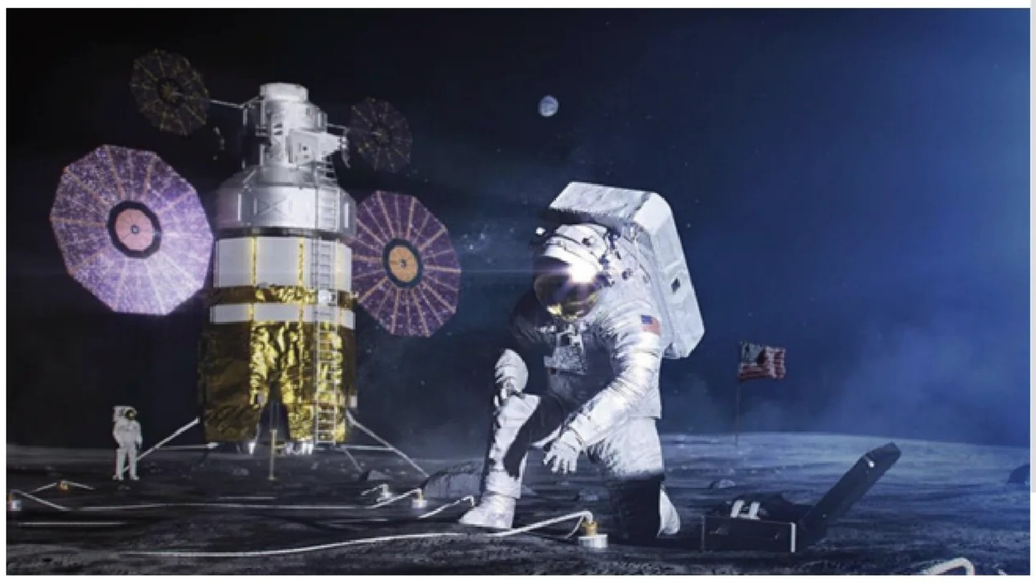
Today, astronauts and cosmonauts from former rival nations work side by side aboard the ISS, conducting research that benefits all humanity. The station involves space agencies from the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, and Canada. This cooperation has survived political tensions on Earth, demonstrating that shared scientific goals can transcend geopolitical divisions.

Commercial space exploration now promises to democratize access to space. Companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, and others are dramatically reducing launch costs through reusable rockets and innovative engineering. What once required the resources of entire nations can now be accomplished by private enterprises. This commercialization is opening new possibilities: space tourism, asteroid mining, manufacturing in microgravity, and eventual human settlement beyond Earth. The economic opportunities emerging from this new space industry could reshape global economics in the coming decades.

Space exploration has also expanded human knowledge in fundamental ways. Telescopes in space, free from atmospheric distortion, have revealed the universe with unprecedented clarity. The Hubble Space Telescope transformed our understanding of cosmic expansion, dark energy, and the formation of galaxies. The James Webb Space Telescope is now peering back to the universe's earliest moments, examining the atmospheres of distant exoplanets, and searching for signs of life beyond Earth. These discoveries have profound implications for fundamental questions about our origins and place in the cosmos.

Space exploration fundamentally altered how we understand our planet. The iconic "Earthrise" photograph from Apollo 8, showing our blue world rising over the Moon's barren horizon, catalyzed the modern environmental movement. For the first time, humans could see Earth as a finite, fragile oasis suspended in the cosmic void. This perspective shift, often called the "overview effect," has been described by astronauts as profoundly transformative. Seeing no borders from space, witnessing the thin blue line of atmosphere protecting all life, fundamentally changed how many people think about environmental protection and international cooperation.

Satellite technology provided the tools to monitor these environmental concerns systematically. Space-based sensors track deforestation in real time, measure ice sheet thickness and movement, monitor ocean temperatures and currents, detect pollution sources, and provide early warning for natural disasters. Climate scientists rely heavily on satellite data to understand global warming patterns and predict future changes. Without the vantage point of space, our understanding of climate change would be fragmentary at best. The evidence gathered from orbit has been instrumental in shaping environmental policy and international climate agreements.



The search for extraterrestrial life has evolved from science fiction to serious scientific endeavor, largely because of space exploration capabilities. Rovers on Mars have confirmed that the red planet once had liquid water and potentially habitable conditions. Missions to icy moons like Europa and Enceladus seek evidence of subsurface oceans that might harbor life. The discovery of thousands of exoplanets has revealed that planetary systems are common, making the existence of life elsewhere seem increasingly probable. These investigations force us to reconsider what makes Earth unique and whether life is a cosmic rarity or commonplace.

Philosophically and culturally, space exploration has altered human consciousness. The realization that Earth is a tiny, isolated world in a vast universe has implications for how we think about our species' future. It highlights the importance of protecting our planet while also suggesting that humanity's long-term survival might require becoming a multi-planetary species. This perspective influences everything from science fiction to serious scientific planning for future Mars colonies.

The technological capabilities developed for space exploration continue finding unexpected applications. Machine learning algorithms designed to analyze astronomical data now help diagnose diseases and optimize supply chains. Materials science advances driven by the need for spacecraft components have produced lighter, stronger materials for aircraft, automobiles, and construction. The challenges of keeping astronauts alive in hostile environments have driven innovations in life support, recycling, and closed-loop systems that could help address sustainability challenges on Earth.

Space exploration has also revealed our limitations and vulnerabilities. The challenges of extended spaceflight—radiation exposure, bone density loss, psychological stress, and cosmic isolation—remind us that humans evolved for Earth's conditions. These challenges drive research into human biology and psychology that has applications far beyond space travel. Understanding how humans adapt to extreme environments informs medicine, psychology, and our approach to other challenging conditions. The inspirational power of space exploration cannot be overstated. The images of Earth from space, astronauts floating in the International Space Station, and rovers exploring Mars capture human imagination in unique ways. These achievements represent the best of human capabilities: curiosity, cooperation, ingenuity, and courage. They demonstrate that seemingly impossible challenges can be overcome through dedication and innovation. In an era of complex global problems, space exploration offers proof that humanity can achieve extraordinary things when working toward shared goals.

Looking forward, the changes catalyzed by space exploration continue accelerating. Plans for lunar bases could establish permanent human presence beyond Earth within this decade. Mars missions are being seriously planned by multiple organizations. The commercialization of low Earth orbit is enabling new research and industrial opportunities. Satellite constellations promise to bring internet connectivity to every corner of the globe. The resources of the solar system, from water ice on the Moon to metals in asteroids, could support an expanding space economy. Human space exploration fundamentally changed things not just through specific technologies or discoveries, but by expanding what humanity considers possible. It transformed abstract scientific questions into visible, tangible achievements. It turned the universe from an unreachable realm of speculation into a destination. It gave us new eyes to see our own planet and new perspectives on our responsibilities to it and each other.

Coach Gambhir under pressure as India chase back-to-back T20 World Cup glory

Hosts India begin title defence amid expectations, transitions and intense scrutiny on coach Gambhir

NEW DELHI

Defending champions India will walk into the T20 World Cup on home soil as overwhelming favourites, but the spotlight is firmly on head coach Gautam Gambhir, whose tenure faces its sternest examination yet.

India, captained by Suryakumar Yadav, open their campaign against the United States at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Saturday, bringing the curtain down on the opening day of the 10th edition of the tournament. The build-up, however, has been anything but smooth. Bangladesh withdrew last month citing security concerns and were replaced by Scotland, while Pakistan have been barred by their government from facing India in Group A in Colombo on February 15, protesting Bangladesh's treatment.

The absence of the sport's biggest rivalry has dulled the group stage's sheen but leaves India well placed to finish top. Pakistan are still expected to progress alongside India, provided they avoid slips against the Netherlands, Namibia or the USA.

Top-ranked India underlined their credentials with a 4-1 T20 series win over New Zealand, their ninth successive bilateral triumph in the format. Yet losses elsewhere have put Gambhir under pressure. India were beaten 2-0 by South Africa in Tests last year and lost an ODI series 2-1 to New Zealand. Since replacing Rahul Dravid after the 2024 T20 World Cup triumph, Gambhir has overseen 10 Test defeats in 19 matches.

Indian media reports suggest failure in the 20-team tournament could cost the former opener his job. Ajinkya Rahane advised Gambhir to "stay away from social media" and focus on the task ahead.

This will be India's first T20 World Cup since Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli retired after the 2024 final in Barbados. Abhishek Sharma has stepped into Rohit's role with flair, striking at over 194, while Suryakumar has rediscovered form. With Jasprit Bumrah leading a potent bowling unit, India carry confidence — and history to defy, with no team yet winning back-to-back titles.

Test ambitions drove Cummins' T20 World Cup skip

MELBOURNE

Australia skipper prioritises long Test calendar, fitness over rushed T20 return

Australia's pace spearhead and all-format captain Pat Cummins has revealed that his decision to withdraw from the T20 World Cup was influenced not only by injury concerns but also by his determination to be fully fit for a demanding Test season ahead.

Cummins was ruled out of the tournament after failing to recover in time from a back injury and was replaced in the squad by left-arm pacer Ben Dwarshuis. The 32-year-old has been managing the issue since Australia's tour of the West Indies last July and said medical advice ultimately forced him to step back from the February 7-starting event.

"It was really unfortunate," Cummins told. "I feel pretty good, but it was a minor setback and I just ran out of time. We thought initially it might only be four weeks, but a follow-up scan showed it needed a bit longer."

Cummins explained that rushing back for the T20 World Cup could have jeopardised his availability for a packed international calendar, particularly in Tests. "We knew after the Adelaide Test we'd need somewhere between four and eight weeks to let the bone settle. The timeline just became too tight," he said.

Australia's Test schedule resumes in August with two home Tests against Bangladesh, followed by a tour of South Africa, a home series against New Zealand, and a five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India. That is followed by the pink-ball 150th anniversary Test against England, a potential away Ashes series, the ODI World Cup and a possible World Test Championship final.

"The first half of the year was a good time to be conservative," Cummins said. "Get it right now and hopefully I can play all those Test matches."

Cummins is hopeful of returning in time to captain Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL starting March 26. Despite Australia's 0-3 whitewash in Pakistan, he remains upbeat about the T20 World Cup squad. "Morale is good. The guys know how big this is and are desperate to get started," he added.

'In-form India would be extremely difficult to beat in T20 WC'

VADODARA

Former Australian cricketer-turned-coach Michael Klinger believes India's dominant display against New Zealand has firmly established the defending champions as the team to beat at the T20 World Cup starting on February 7.

Klinger said India's aggressive top-order and fearless brand of cricket make them arguably the strongest side heading into the ICC showpiece. The former Australia batter, now head coach of WPL franchise Gujarat Giants, felt that only an exceptional performance on a bad night could halt India's title defence.

"With the form they're in and what I saw recently against New Zealand, India are going to be extremely difficult to beat. A team will probably have to catch them on a bad night in a final to beat them," Klinger said. A key feature of India's new batting template, according to Klinger, has been the emergence of Abhishek Sharma at the top of the order. The left-hander has impressed with his intent and consistency, carrying his Indian Premier League form into the international arena. "Abhishek Sharma is probably my new favourite player. I've been watching him for a while. Opening with Travis Head in the IPL and now doing it at international level, he's fearless and amazing to watch," said Klinger, who played three T20 internationals for Australia. India's attacking approach was further underlined by Ishan Kishan's return to form, with both openers consistently putting New Zealand's bowlers under sustained pressure throughout the series.

"Ishan Kishan has come back in fantastic form and is certainly putting a case forward to start in the XI at the World Cup," Klinger noted, adding that India's batting depth has made team selection a healthy headache rather than a concern.

New captain Brook leads England into crucial reset after repeated global tournament failures

England and Brook seek redemption at T20 WC after white-ball disappointments

LONDON

England head into the T20 World Cup searching for renewal after a bruising run at major white-ball events, with captain Harry Brook facing a defining test of leadership and temperament.

Two-time champions in 2010 and 2022, England have struggled to recapture their dominance since their golden period, suffering early exits and inconsistent performances across formats. Brook will lead the side at a global tournament for the first time after replacing Jos Buttler as white-ball captain last year, following England's disappointing Champions Trophy campaign in Pakistan and the UAE.

That setback came on the back of a disastrous defence of their 50-over World Cup title in India in 2023 and a semi-final exit at the 2024 T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and United States. England's recent 4-1 Ashes defeat in Australia has only intensified scrutiny on the team's leadership group.

Brook, 26, one of England's most gifted batters across formats, has also endured a turbulent period off the field. He apologised last month after an altercation with a nightclub bouncer during England's tour of New Zealand, an incident that earned him a fine and formal warning from the England and Wales Cricket Board. Brook admitted he was fortunate to retain the captaincy and now has an opportunity to refocus attention on his cricket.

England open their campaign against Nepal in Mumbai on Sunday, with hopes that a strong start can restore confidence. Their batting remains a major strength, with Buttler, Phil Salt and Ben Duckett providing explosive options at the top, while Brook, Tom Banton and rising all-rounder Jacob Bethell add depth and flexibility.

Injuries have thinned England's pace resources, with Mark Wood ruled out and Jofra Archer only recently returning, but Adil Rashid's experience anchors a varied bowling attack. Head coach Brendon McCullum and managing director Rob Key will be eager for a deep run after months of pressure. With form improving after series wins over Sri Lanka, England see this tournament as a chance for redemption — and for Brook to define a new era.

ICC T20 World Cup 2026: Unpredictable West Indies have a mountain to climb

NEW DELHI

Two-time champions West Indies arrive at the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 hoping to rekindle memories of their last triumph a decade ago, when they lifted the trophy in India in 2016. However, recent form and persistent inconsistency suggest the road ahead will be steep for the mercurial Caribbean side.

Drawn in Group C alongside England, Scotland, Italy and Nepal, West Indies cannot afford complacency in the opening round. Going by recent results, an upset loss to one of the associate nations would not come as a shock. A series defeat to Afghanistan and losses to Nepal last year underline the fragility that has crept into a side once feared for its dominance in the shortest format.

If they make it through, the challenge could intensify sharply. West Indies are likely to find themselves in a potential 'Group of Death' in the Super 8 stage, where heavyweights such as India, Australia and South Africa may await.

STRENGTHS

Power-hitting remains West Indies' biggest weapon. Batters like Brandon King, Rovman Powell, Johnson Charles, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder and Romario Shepherd are capable of dismantling attacks, particularly on flat Indian pitches. The spin department, led by Akeal Hosein and Gudakesh Motie, with captain Roston Chase providing balance, adds control in middle overs.

WEAKNESSES

The team's unpredictability continues to be its biggest flaw. A lack of cohesion and sustained performances has hurt West Indies even against lower-ranked opposition. Momentum has been hard to build, and confidence often swings wildly from match to match.

OPPORTUNITIES

Indian conditions offer an ideal stage for West Indies' big hitters to thrive. A strong start could restore belief and allow them to play fearless cricket, which has historically brought them success.

THREATS

The pace attack, led by Holder alongside Shamar Joseph, Matthew Forde and Jayden Seales, could struggle against elite batting line-ups. With consistency elusive, West Indies face a daunting task to reassert themselves among T20's elite.

T20 World Cup 2026: 'Homecoming' for army of Indian-origin cricketers

NEW DELHI

When the T20 World Cup gets underway in India and Sri Lanka on February 7, it will be more than just another global tournament for dozens of players of Indian origin. For many, it represents a deeply emotional homecoming — a chance to perform on the biggest stage in the country of their roots.

Led by teams such as Canada and the United States, more than three dozen Indian-origin cricketers are spread across the 20 participating nations. Canada boast the highest number with 11 players, followed by the USA (9), Oman (7) and the UAE (7), underlining the quiet but significant Indian influence across world cricket.

For Mumbai-born USA pacer Saurabh Netravalkar, the opener against India at the Wankhede Stadium promises a full-circle moment. A former India U-19 player, Netravalkar never imagined returning to his childhood ground as an international cricketer after moving to the United States and stepping away from the game. Now 34, he arrives as a key figure in the USA side after starring in their fairytale run in the 2024 edition.

USA captain Monank Patel, born in Anand, Gujarat, also carries fond memories as he prepares to face former junior teammate Jasprit Bumrah. Patel believes Bumrah's greatness was evident even in their youth cricket days.

Italy's World Cup debut adds another poignant chapter through Phagwara-born pacer Jaspreet Singh, who moved to Europe as a teenager and once worked as an Uber driver before earning his ICC moment. The Netherlands' Aryan Dutt, Canada captain Dilpreet Bajwa, and Oman skipper Jatinder Singh further highlight the diaspora's reach.

While India chase title glory at home, the 'Indian hand' will quietly shape narratives across the tournament — blending nostalgia, opportunity and ambition on cricket's grandest T20 stage.

FanCode, KPS secure broadcasting rights for Indian Super League

BENGALURU

FanCode and Kolkata-based Kaleidoscope Studios (KPS) have emerged as the successful bidders for the broadcasting and production rights of the much-delayed Indian Super League (ISL), which is scheduled to kick off in less than two weeks. FanCode won the digital and television broadcasting rights, while KPS secured the production rights for the world feed, following the release of the tender by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) last month. FanCode placed the highest combined bid of Rs 8.62 crore for the complete package, outbidding ABP Network, which offered Rs 6.89 crore for digital and production rights, and JioTV, which bid Rs 5 crore for digital rights alone. KPS separately bid Rs 5.25 crore to take charge of production. Sources in FanCode told DH that the platform remains open to sharing television broadcast rights with other channels, indicating flexibility in maximising reach for the league. Two other bidders — Monarch with PR Solution and UK-based firm Two Circles — were disqualified earlier in the process after failing to meet criteria outlined in the AIFF's request for proposal.

The sharp contrast between this deal and last season's broadcast agreement highlights the financial strain facing Indian football. The previous season's partners, including Star Sports Network, Sports18 and Asianet, had secured rights for a combined Rs 275 crore. The significantly lower value of the current deal raises concerns over production quality and reduced promotional spending.

With the broadcast arrangement now finalised, AIFF is expected to announce the fixtures for the 91-match truncated season soon. The league, however, remains without a title sponsor, adding to financial uncertainty. Meanwhile, Bengaluru FC players, including captain Sunil Chhetri, have agreed to pay cuts for the season. Club owner Parth Jindal confirmed the decision, citing the challenging phase Indian football is undergoing, as clubs shoulder a major share of operational costs amid the ongoing financial crisis.

AFI RAISES THE BAR FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES QUALIFICATION

BENGALURU

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has set stringent qualification standards for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, signalling a no-compromise approach as Indian athletes prepare for the quadrennial event in Glasgow this July–August.

A maximum of 32 spots, including 16 for women, will be available across disciplines, with athletes in more than 10 events required to better existing national records to earn direct qualification. AFI officials justified the demanding benchmarks, citing the high level of competition expected from powerhouses such as Jamaica, Australia and Canada.

The National Senior Athletics Federation Competition, scheduled in Ranchi from May 22 to 25, will serve as the final selection trials for the Games. This applies even to athletes who have already met the qualification marks earlier in the season, although AFI may grant exemptions in special circumstances, including participation in major international events during the same window.

In the marquee 100 metres, sprinters Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar and Gurindervir Singh will need to better the national record of 10.18 seconds, with the qualifying mark set at 10.16, in line with Asian Games standards. The bar is even higher in the 400m, where athletes such as Vishal TK, Muhammed Anas, Rajesh Ramesh and Amoj Jacob must dip below the 45-second mark, with a target of 44.96 seconds.

Manchester City go big again as Premier League clubs dominate transfer window

City lead English spending spree as Premier League dominates Europe in Jan

MANCHESTER

Manchester City once again emerged as the biggest spenders in the January transfer window as Premier League clubs flexed their financial muscle to dominate the mid-season market across Europe.

City shelled out a reported $115 million to sign Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi, reinforcing their squad for a four-pronged trophy push. While the outlay was lower than last year's $200-plus million splurge, it still accounted for a significant portion of the Premier League's overall spending, estimated at around $500 million, according to data from Transfermarkt.

The English top flight comfortably outspent rival leagues in Spain, Italy, France and Germany, underlining the Premier League's continued financial supremacy. City will hope this investment proves more fruitful than last season, when heavy spending failed to deliver silverware for the first time in eight years.

Crystal Palace were the second-biggest spenders in England, reportedly investing close to $105 million. Their headline signing was Wolverhampton striker Jorgen Strand Larsen, who arrived on deadline day for a club-record fee that could rise to $65 million. Palace's window came amid upheaval, with captain Guehi departing for City and manager Oliver Glasner confirming he will step down at season's end.

Elsewhere in England, Liverpool focused on the future by agreeing a summer deal for French defender Jeremy Jacquet. Wolves made late moves for Angel Gomes and Adam Armstrong, while Kalvin Phillips left City on loan for Sheffield United.

Beyond England, activity was more selective. Atletico Madrid signed Ademola Lookman in Spain, while Barcelona brought Joao Cancelo back on loan. Italian clubs were active, with Lazio and Napoli spending heavily, though Milan, Inter and Juventus remained cautious.

France's standout deal saw Lyon loan Endrick from Real Madrid, while Germany's Bundesliga saw modest business. Even so, the January window once again belonged to the Premier League — led, as ever, by Manchester City.

Benzema joins Al-Hilal to present threat to Ronaldo's Saudi title hopes

RIYADH

Former Ballon d'Or winner strengthens league leaders, intensifying rivalry with Cristiano Ronaldo

France great Karim Benzema has reignited a familiar rivalry in a new setting after completing a high-profile switch from Al-Ittihad to Saudi Pro League leaders Al-Hilal, a move that could seriously dent Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of winning his first league title in the kingdom. The former Real Madrid striker, who won the Ballon d'Or in 2022, joins Al-Hilal with the club sitting one point clear of Ronaldo's Al-Nassr at the top of the table. Benzema's arrival significantly strengthens an already formidable side and adds pressure on Ronaldo, who has been chasing domestic silverware since moving to Saudi Arabia in 2022. Benzema enjoyed immediate success at Al-Ittihad, leading them to the league title and King's Cup last season. His switch to Al-Hilal now places him at Saudi Arabia's most decorated club, which boasts 21 league titles and four Asian Champions League crowns. Al-Hilal also made global headlines last year by defeating Manchester City 4-3 at the Club World Cup.

Coached by Simone Inzaghi, a two-time Champions League finalist, Al-Hilal have consistently attracted elite talent. The club previously signed Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain and attempted a world-record move for Kylian Mbappe, underlining their ambition to dominate both domestically and continentally.

Benzema's transfer comes amid reports of growing frustration within the Al-Nassr camp. Ronaldo is believed to be unhappy with a perceived lack of transfer activity, especially as rivals continue to strengthen. The Portuguese star was notably absent from Al-Nassr's league match against Al Riyadh on Monday, further fuelling speculation.

Both clubs, along with Al-Ittihad, are majority-owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, but momentum now appears firmly with Al-Hilal. With Benzema added to their ranks, the battle for supremacy — and for bragging rights between two former Real Madrid icons — has taken on fresh intensity.

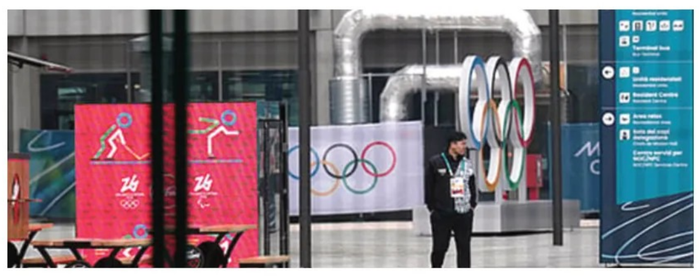
India to host Asian Olympic shooting qualifier in 2027

NEW DELHI

India will host the 2027 Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship in Delhi, offering eight quota places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, marking a historic first for the country's shooting calendar. The Asian qualifier will complement the 12 Olympic quota spots available at the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) from April 21–30 next year, also in Delhi. The announcement was confirmed by the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) in a letter to National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kalikesh Singh Deo, while final dates for the Asian event will be revealed later. "This is a proud moment for Indian shooting," Deo said. "Our athletes now have two home competitions in the year to aim for Olympic quota places. We thank Eng. AlOtaibi and the ASC team for their trust in India's ability to host world-class events." NRAI secretary general Pawankumar Singh expressed confidence in the country's preparations. "We will host both the ISSF World Cup and the Asian Championships at the Karni Singh Ranges.

Italy's spread-out Winter Olympics pose transport challenges for athletes and spectators

MILAN



One of the toughest challenges at this month's Winter Olympics may have little to do with snow or sport, as Italy grapples with the task of moving hundreds of thousands of athletes, officials and spectators across northern Italy.

The Games are being staged across seven venues, making them the most geographically spread-out Winter Olympics in history. Italian authorities argue that dispersing events over a wide area reduces environmental pressure on individual locations. However, experts warn that the fragmented layout significantly complicates mobility.

"The more fragmented the venue layout, the more complex the mobility demands — especially for spectators, who generate the largest transport volumes," said Robert Steiger, a tourism and climate change expert at Innsbruck University.

While Milan will benefit from enhanced metro, train and bus services, including night operations, access to mountain venues such as Cortina, Bormio and Livigno remains a concern. Unlike Beijing 2022, there is no dedicated high-speed Olympic rail link. A fan flying into Venice to watch alpine skiing in Cortina may need to combine bus, regional train, another bus and long walks — with key cable-car links still incomplete.

Authorities are urging spectators to rely on public transport, park outside sensitive areas and use shuttle services. But officials acknowledge the challenge of competing with private cars. "With these spread-out Games, the first instinct is to drive," said Andrea Gibelli of Italy's state railways.

For many spectators, driving may still prove faster, despite traffic congestion, restricted resort access and reservation-only parking. Ride-hailing service Uber, an official Games partner, expects activity in Olympic zones to double during the event.

Italy has pledged €3.5 billion in infrastructure investment, yet delays persist. As of late January, fewer than half of the planned projects had been completed. Several tunnels, bridges and road upgrades — billed as the Games' long-term legacy — will only be finished years after the closing ceremony.

IOC president Kirsty Coventry acknowledged the difficulty, saying the dispersed model was the right choice, but one that "created additional complexities" for transport planning.

T20WC Boycott: Broadcasters May Move Court Against PCB

KARACHI/NEW DELHI

The ICC has warned the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that official T20 World Cup broadcasters JioStar may take legal action if Pakistan boycotts its February 15 match against India. Pakistan, following government instructions, has yet to formally notify the ICC of the reasons. Sources say the ICC could withhold Pakistan's USD 35 million annual revenue and pay broadcasters directly. PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi consulted legal experts but the board braces for financial penalties and possible lawsuits. The ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee is unlikely to hear appeals. PCB reportedly sought support from other boards but found none. Observers suggest Naqvi might reconsider after Bangladesh elections on February 12, but a boycott could isolate Pakistan and harm the team financially and reputationally.

ANUSHA, PRIYANUJ HEADLINE HOST WILD CARDS AT WTT STAR CONTENDER CHENNAI

CHENNAI

Indian paddlers Anusha Kutumbale and Priyanuj Bhattacharyya will headline the host wild card entries at the WTT Star Contender Chennai 2026 as India fields a strong, youthful contingent for the prestigious international table tennis tournament. The hosts will feature a record 23 players in the main draw.

The tournament, co-hosted by Ultimate Table Tennis, Sharath Kamal Academy and Stupa Sports AI with support from the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, will be held at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University from February 10 to 15.

Anusha, the women's finalist at the Feeder Series Vadodara 2026, leads the women's host wild cards alongside Sayali Wani, Kavya Bhatt and Taneesha Kotecha, with all four wild cards going to Indians. In men's singles, WTT Youth Contender Vadodara under-19 champion Priyanuj Bhattacharyya is among the host wild cards, with France's Remi Betelu the lone overseas pick.

World number 33 Manav Thakkar will spearhead India's men's singles challenge, supported by Manush Shah, G Sathiyan and Harmeet Desai.

IOC leader warns of 'uncomfortable' change coming to Olympics programs

MILAN

Change is coming to the Olympic programme and it will not be easy for everyone, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Kirsty Coventry warned on Tuesday, signalling a potentially transformative phase for the Games.

Speaking at the IOC's annual meeting ahead of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, Coventry outlined a central theme of her presidency as she prepares for her first Olympics as the IOC's first female leader in its 130-year history. She acknowledged that difficult choices lie ahead as the Olympic movement reassesses what it wants to represent in the coming decades.

Coventry set in motion a comprehensive review last June of more than 450 medal events governed by over 40 international sports federations across the Summer and Winter Games. The exercise aims to evaluate relevance, appeal and long-term sustainability.

"We have to be honest about what works and, sometimes more importantly, what doesn't," Coventry told delegates. "It means we have to look at our sports, disciplines and events with fresh eyes to make sure we are evolving with our times."

She stressed that the process would involve tough conversations. "We will face difficult decisions and discussions — that's part of change. I know these conversations can be uncomfortable, but they are essential if we are to keep the Games strong for generations to come," she said.

Over the past decade, the Summer Olympics have sought to attract younger audiences by adding urban and youth-oriented sports such as skateboarding and 3x3 basketball, while breaking made its Olympic debut in Paris 18 months ago. Coventry said such moves reflect the need to balance tradition with innovation.

"We have to ensure the Games remain inspiring for young people everywhere — reflecting their values, authenticity and search for something genuine," said the two-time Olympic swimming champion.

Her comments could raise concerns for long-established sports, including modern pentathlon, which has faced scrutiny ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Games. "Paris was a great success, but that moment is now in the past," Coventry added. "It would be dangerous to rest on our laurels."

The findings of the Olympic programme review, part of Coventry's "Fit for the Future" agenda, are expected to be announced later this year.

Sabalenka Holds Top Spot, Djokovic Returns to Top Three on ATP Tour

MELBOURNE

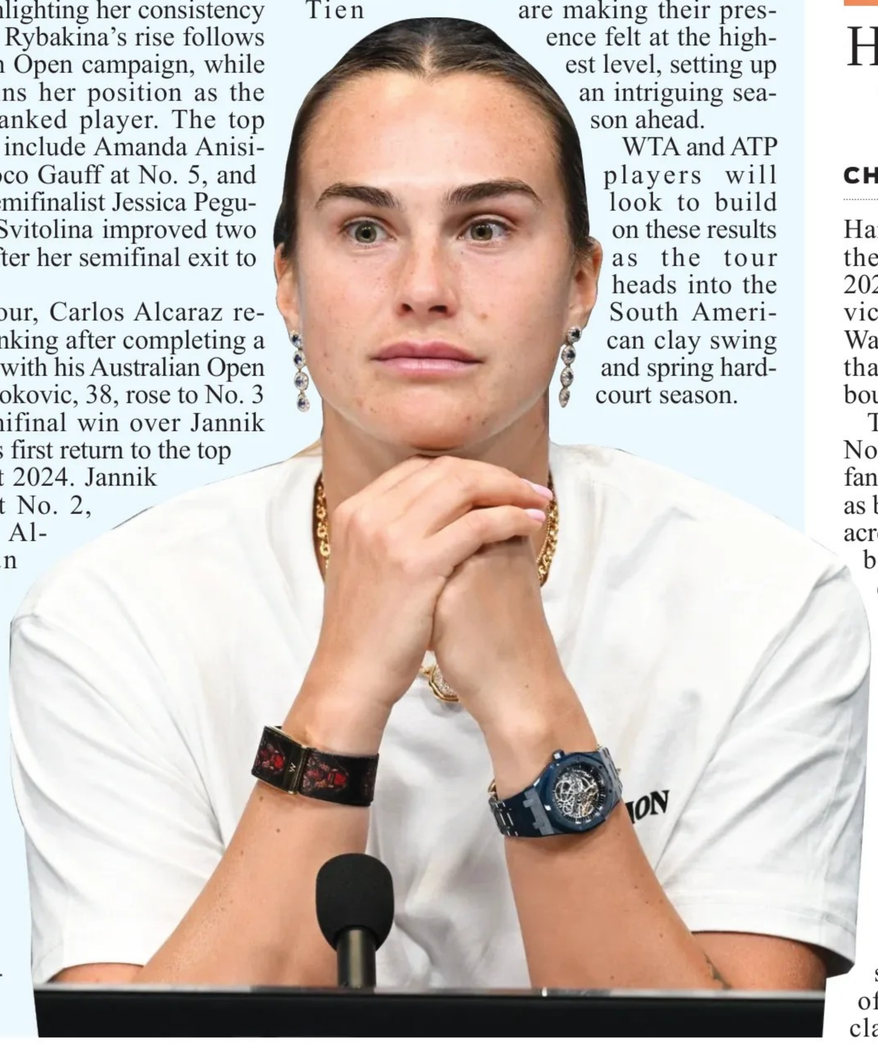
Aryna Sabalenka maintained her WTA No. 1 ranking despite losing the Australian Open final to Elena Rybakina, who jumped two spots to third, with Iga Swiatek at No. 2.

Sabalenka's loss in the Melbourne final did little to affect her lead at the top of the women's tour, highlighting her consistency over the past year. Rybakina's rise follows a strong Australian Open campaign, while Iga Swiatek retains her position as the world's second-ranked player. The top American women include Amanda Anisimova at No. 4, Coco Gauff at No. 5, and Australian Open semifinalist Jessica Pegula at No. 6. Elina Svitolina improved two places to No. 10 after her semifinal exit to Sabalenka.

On the men's tour, Carlos Alcaraz retained his No. 1 ranking after completing a career Grand Slam with his Australian Open triumph. Novak Djokovic, 38, rose to No. 3 following his semifinal win over Jannik Sinner, marking his first return to the top three since August 2024. Jannik Sinner remains at No. 2, narrowly behind Alcaraz. American Learner Tien was among the biggest movers, climbing five spots to a career-high No. 24 on the ATP Tour. The 20-year-old became the youngest American man to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal since 2002, falling to fourth-ranked Alexander Zverev at Melbourne Park.

The post-Australian Open rankings underscore both emerging talent and enduring experience across tours. Sabalenka and Alcaraz continue to dominate their respective circuits, while veterans like Djokovic demonstrate remarkable longevity. Meanwhile, young stars such as Rybakina and Tien are making their presence felt at the highest level, setting up an intriguing season ahead.

WTA and ATP players will look to build on these results as the tour heads into the South American clay swing and spring hardcourt season.



Haryana Thunders crowned Pro Wrestling League champions

CHENNAI

Haryana Thunders clinched the Pro Wrestling League 2026 title with a thrilling 5-4 victory over Delhi Dangal Warriors in a nail-biting final that went down to the last bout.

The championship clash at Noida Indoor Stadium kept fans on the edge of their seats as both teams exchanged wins across eight bouts, ending 4-4 before the decisive women's 62kg showdown. Paris Olympic silver medallist Iryna Koliadenko produced a masterclass under pressure to secure a technical superiority win, sealing the title for Haryana Thunders and the ₹1.5 crore prize. Delhi Dangal Warriors, runners-up, earned ₹75 lakh.

Individual honours highlighted stellar performances throughout the season. Turan Bayramov of Delhi Dangal Warriors claimed the Player of the Tournament award for a flawless 7-0 record in the men's 57kg category, amassing 59 points. Punjab Royals' Chandermohan topped overall points, while Neha Sangwan of Haryana took Player of the Match for keeping her team in contention till the final bout. Ronak (Delhi) was named Fighter of the Match, and Akshay Dhere (Haryana) earned Impact Player for dominating in the men's 57kg contest.

The final opened with Turan Bayramov racing to an 8-1 win in the 74kg men's bout, giving Delhi an early lead. Haryana bounced back through U20 World Champion Kajal Dhochack in the 76kg women's bout. Delhi regained momentum via Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) and Hadi Bakhtiar (86kg), but Haryana responded with victories from Yui Susaki and Akshay Dhere. Ronak's 12-2 triumph in the heavyweight bout put Delhi ahead 4-3, but Neha Sangwan pinned Anjali to level the score, forcing a decider.

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